

# THE TIMES

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PETER NICHOLLS

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# New Army code to end ban on gays

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY officers are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuality and change the current strict attitude towards adultery.

Senior Army officers rewriting the discipline and standards guidelines, which were last updated in 1993, believe it is no longer justified to treat individuals differently on the basis of their sexuality.

They want the Army Board to approve a new moral code under which only those individuals whose sexual activities can be shown to have a direct impact on a unit's operational effectiveness should face disciplinary action or administrative discharge.

"What we're talking about is sexual adventurism or overt sexuality, the kind of behaviour that can have a really bad effect on a unit," one Army source said.

Under the radical approach, gays and lesbians serving in the Army would not automatically face administrative discharge if identified as homosexuals.

Although the proposed liberal code of conduct flies in the face of current Government policy, which still supports the ban on homosexuality, the new approach suggested by the senior Army officers is supported by top civil servants at the Ministry of Defence.

The change in attitude towards sexuality has been largely driven by the surge in legal cases involving homosexuals, lesbians and transsexuals who have been pursuing compensation claims in British and European courts.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said last week that a Labour government would lift the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

The senior civil servants believe the Armed Forces must prepare themselves for significant changes across the whole spectrum of personal and sexual behaviour to bring them more into line with the rest of society and ensure that they cannot be accused of any form of discrimination.

Apart from the "inevitable" lifting of the ban on homosexuality, they say the strict codes governing officers who commit adultery will also have to be changed, provided their actions do not interfere with operational effectiveness.

The Government's position on homosexuality is that it is incompatible with military life because of the close physical conditions in which servicemen and women have to work and live. It has

rigorously defended its policy in the High Court and Court of Appeal in a number of cases.

The Army's new moral code, expected to be completed before the end of the year, is likely to be far less proscriptive than the 1993 code, adopting a more sympathetic position on sexual orientation yet emphasising the importance of maintaining combat unity.

The 1993 code states that "anyone who admits to, displays the orientation of, or indulges in homosexuality, will be required to resign or be discharged". It also says that adultery, whether committed within the military community or outside, "is likely to prejudice the position of an individual and may bring the Army into disrepute".

General Sir Roger Wheeler, the new Chief of the General Staff, is known to be a pragmatic commander who is likely to give his approval to a more modern attitude towards sexual behaviour, although he has not yet sanctioned the radical stance being adopted by some of his senior officers.

Despite the belief at the top of the MoD civil service that changes in policy on homosexuality, adultery and other forms of sexual conduct are inevitable for all three Services, strong resistance remains in some parts of the ministry.

Royal Navy chiefs, in particular, are opposed to lifting the ban on homosexuality because they believe that in the close confines of a warship or submarine, the presence of known homosexuals would undermine morale and destroy operational effectiveness.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, the Chief of Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, has made his position clear to ministers and his staff: he is adamantly opposed to any lifting of the ban on homosexuals. One Navy source said: "Some people believe that because of all the court cases, there will have to be a change in the present position, but this is not the view of the First Sea Lord. He thinks the MoD should fight these issues all the way, even through to the European courts."

However, unlike the Army's present position on adultery, the Navy takes no action or interest in any relationship that takes place ashore when individuals are off duty. The Navy source said: "That's an entirely private matter. All we are worried about is what happens on board ship or at a naval establishment."

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and higher income earners that a Labour government would not raise the ceiling on national insurance contributions, the plan felt to have contributed severely to Labour's defeat in 1992.

The move came as it was disclosed that Mr Turner had been consulted on the contents of a separate manifesto, to be released alongside the main party manifesto, which will be aimed at winning the support of Britain's bosses.

Mr Brown also made plain that not all privatised utilities would pay Labour's proposed windfall tax. He said that while all the utility companies sold off by the Tories would be "eligible" for the tax, if they had not made excess profits they would not be liable. Mr Brown's remarks added to

## THE PLEASURES OF HOUSEWORK

Some women are rediscovering the joys of buckets and mops

PAGE 17



Pete Goss and his wife, Tracey, embracing after he landed at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast yesterday

## French welcome British sea hero

FROM EDWARD GORMAN  
IN LES SABLES D'OLONNE

FRANCE took Pete Goss to its heart yesterday when the British yachtsman finished his epic solo round-the-world voyage and was welcomed by more than a hundred thousand people on a glorious spring afternoon.

Goss, 35, who finished in fifth place in the Vendée Globe and is the fastest Briton to sail round the world singlehanded with a time of 126 days and 21 hours, was overwhelmed by his reception at Les Sables d'Olonne on the Biscay coast. He was greeted by Raphael Dinelli, the French sailor whose life he saved

in the Southern Ocean after his boat capsized. Goss is to receive the Légion d'honneur for his heroism.

"It's impossible really," he said. "I've been in solitary confinement for four and a half months and I've just bounced back into humanity. It's extraordinary — I feel very, very emotional and I am very privileged."

As his 50ft yellow-hulled yacht *Aqua Quorum* was shepherded slowly into the harbour by a flotilla of spectator boats, Goss stood on the foredeck waving at the people standing up to 20 rows deep on the harbour walls to applaud him.

The self-effacing Cornishman, who sold his house and ran up debts of more than

£100,000 to take part in the race, could only mouth "this is just amazing," amid the din of boat horns, cheers, whistles and clapping.

When *Aqua Quorum* finally made it to the dock, Goss's wife, Tracey, was the first on board, enveloping him in hugs and kisses. Then came Philippe Jeantot, the race organiser, who has called Goss "the true hero of the Vendée Globe," and then his father Michael and mother Sally.

Next was Raphael Dinelli, whose life Goss saved in the Southern Ocean at Christmas when he turned *Aqua Quorum* into 70-knot winds and appalling seas to find the stricken

Continued on page 2, col 7

## More Hamas suicide attacks threatened

TENSION in the Middle East increased yesterday as violence continued in various parts of the occupied West Bank and Hamas threatened to launch more suicide attacks against Israeli targets. Four people, including the bomber, were killed in a crowded Tel Aviv cafe last week.

Hamas said Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, would not be able to crack down on its activities because it had an organisational structure in place and was ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Talks reprieved, page 10



Hamilton 'accepted up to £60,000'

Mohamed Al Fayed, the owner of Harrods who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, lost track of payments he made to MPs but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

According to transcripts obtained by The Times the Egyptian-born businessman admitted to Sir Gordon Downey that he grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield. Page 4

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## Blair's CBI snub to unions

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown yesterday stepped up Labour's efforts to woo business by promising a seat for the CBI on a high-level committee set up to prepare for Britain's presidency of the European Union in 1998.

In what will be seen as a further snub to the unions, Adair Turner, director general of the CBI, has been invited to serve on a separate group that will plan ways of forcing the EU to open up more of its markets. Labour sources said that the unions would not be asked to serve on the committee.

The Shadow Chancellor hardened up his pre-election tax pledges by reaffirming to middle

and higher income earners that a Labour government would not raise the ceiling on national insurance contributions, the plan felt to have contributed severely to Labour's defeat in 1992.

The move came as it was disclosed that Mr Turner had been consulted on the contents of a separate manifesto, to be released alongside the main party manifesto, which will be aimed at winning the support of Britain's bosses.

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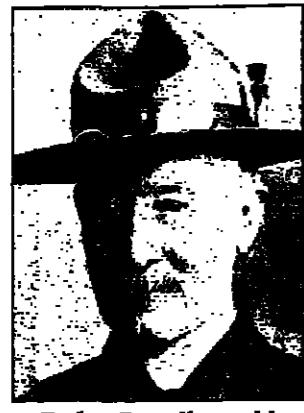
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## Baden-Powells condemn ruling on homosexual leaders

By LIN JENKINS



A DECISION not to bar homosexuals from becoming leaders has been condemned by the family of the founder Robert Baden-Powell and by many volunteer organisers.

The adoption of an equal rights policy has sparked fresh controversy over whether enough is being done to set an example, in the original spirit of the movement, to the 500,000 girls and boys who now belong. Details of the policy were distributed at the end of last month and county commissioners are being briefed on how it should be implemented. It will be

included in adult leader training. Betty Clay, whose father started the movement in 1908 to develop the character and responsibility of boys, and who a vice president of the movement, said her father would not have approved. "He was very much against any exceptionally unnatural ways of living and would not have liked people with odd tendencies to be leaders and the example for boys and young men to follow," she said.

One of the main tenets of the movement had always been to provide alternatives to bad behaviour, she said. "He knew very well the temptations for young men and had many letters from them. Having

been through life himself he had many ways of facing up to them and overcoming them and these are what he prescribed in his books to young men. There are so many alternatives to bad behaviour."

Lord Baden-Powell, the grandson of the founder and also a vice president, said the move was "extraordinary" and is demanding an explanation for the decision.

Bill Walker, the Tory MP and chairman of the parliamentary Scout group, said the decision could damage the movement because those involved working with children were expected to conform to a conventional code. "The Scout movement is re-

lated to accept Christian values and teaching, not trendy modern views that may not stand the test of time."

Only atheists and paedophiles are prevented from becoming Scout leaders under the new policy, which was agreed as a result of a three-year review. Warren Hawksley, Tory MP for Halewood and Stourbridge, said the decision was potentially catastrophic since it would lead to parents being put off allowing their children to become scouts regardless of whether there was a real risk.

Some of the movement's leaders have voiced their disquiet and threatened to resign if the policy is not changed. However, officials at the

London headquarters have been quick to reassure them that the decision over who may become a leader rested with the local people.

John Fogg, of The Scout Association, said: "One of the problems about discussing this is that in some quarters there is belief that a homosexual is automatically a paedophile and this is simply not the case. We have vigorous procedures to keep the undesirables out and nothing in this policy undermines that."

The movement had canvassed a wide range of views from all those involved in scouting and none should be surprised that the equal opportunities policy was now in place.

**Former officer tells of gays' fate in forces**

By CAROL MIDDLETON

A WOMAN who was forced out of the Royal Military Police for being a lesbian has told of the techniques used to uncover homosexuals in the Armed Forces.

Caroline Meagher, a former staff sergeant with the Special Investigations Bureau, said that people's pictures and record collections were examined to provide "clues" to their sexuality. The story of Miss Meagher, 36, is told in a Channel 4 drama, *The Investigator*, written by Barbara Macht, to be screened in May.

Miss Meagher spent much of her career pursuing suspected lesbians in the services. Even when she began a lesbian relationship herself, she continued to conduct the investigations, fearing that she would be dismissed if her sexuality became known.

After 13 years' service, she became a subject of suspicion and was given the opportunity to resign rather than be sacked. "It is something that I will never be able to forget," said Miss Meagher. "Harrowing is a good way to describe it. I am not proud of what I did. Of course I regret it now."

"You know, just the whole project has been a triumph against adversity. If I've learnt anything from this, it was my mum and dad who said you can do anything if you want to, and I know it's true now."

On the rescue of Dinelli, he said it had been a huge ordeal for him too, first of all getting the Frenchman aboard, and then nursing him, feeding him and giving him continuous counselling. "We gelled from the moment we met," he said. "We were kindred spirits anyway, but we developed this fantastic bond."

M Jeantot was effusive in his praise for the Englishman. "For me he is a very, very good sailor for sure," he said. "When we requested him to help with Dinelli, then, for me, he became a real hero because he took so many risks to help and save him. I am a sailor and I know what it means to go and help someone when you are going along with no sails and 70 knots of wind."

Miss Meagher, who now lives in Edinburgh, joined the Women's Royal Army Corps upon leaving school aged 16 in 1977. She won a campaign medal for service in Northern Ireland and promoted to the rank of sergeant and later to the bureau. She was responsible for monitoring and spying on any soldier suspected of being a lesbian.

Once enough information had been gathered they would be interrogated until they broke down and confessed.

Seven years ago she herself was interrogated after her letters were intercepted. "I was denied access to a lawyer," she said. "They told me they would not court-martial me and I had to put my notice in. It was made clear I should leave the Army."

## Offenders spared jail more likely to return to crime

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

OFFENDERS who escape a jail sentence are more likely to re-offend than those sent to prison, according to a Home Office study published today.

The figures for non-custodial penalties such as community and probation orders have been seized on by the Conservatives as proof that prison is more effective. David Maclean, the junior Home Office Minister, said last night: "This is positive proof that prison works. I think it is also a testament to improvements such as drug testing and more rehabilitation in taking place in prisons."

He added: "Among those in prison are generally the harder, more recidivist offenders. To find there is a lower reconviction among the harder people generally sent to prison is heartening."

"Will all the anti-prison groups now stop lying about the evils of prison when compared to community sentences?"

He said it had to be recognised that community sentences had a vital role in the criminal justice system but so did prison. The Home Office study shows that 53 per cent of all prisoners released from jail in 1993 were reconvicted within two years. The comparative figure in 1987 was 57 per cent and in 1990 was 52 per cent.

It also showed that 47 per cent of adult males discharged

from jail in 1993 were reconvicted within two years, 75 per cent of young male offenders and 40 per cent of females.

Among prisoners discharged in 1993 who were reconvicted, 29 per cent were given a prison sentence, 27 per cent fined, 15 per cent probation, 9 per cent community service and 5 per cent a combination order.

The Home Office study found that 57 per cent of offenders given a community penalty in 1993 were reconvicted within two years of its commencement, a drop of 1.3 per cent on the 1991 figure.

For offenders given probation orders starting in 1993 the figure was 60 per cent, but for those ordered to attend a probation centre the figure was 74 per cent and 61 per cent

He was speaking on LWT's Jonathan Dimbleby programme in the first major live debate of the general election campaign. Mr Howard, debating with Jack Straw and Alex Carlile, warned of the danger of the European Court of Human Rights eventually ordering the release of Myra Hindley, the Moors murderer.

Hindley is to exhaust all remedies in the English courts before considering a challenge in Europe over Mr Howard's decision that she should spend the rest of her life in prison. Mr Howard said: "If the European Court of Human Rights were to take that step, I think it would call into question whether we could continue to be signatories to the European Convention on Human Rights."

Magee was moved from Maghaberry jail to the strictly segregated Maze seven months ago. He had been in Maghaberry since a transfer from Full Sutton jail, near York, in September 1994.

Magee is one of about a

dozen terrorists originally transferred from English jails to Maghaberry in Co Antrim, who have since moved to the Maze where there is strict separation of loyalist and republican inmates.

A spokeswoman for the Northern Ireland office said: "It is a matter for the Northern Ireland Prison Service to make operational decisions on where prisoners are detained."

Privately the Government has said that those prisoners who are moved go to Maghaberry because it has an official policy of integration.

But a report on conditions in

Maghaberry makes clear that IRA terrorists transferred to the jail quickly started agitating for a move to join other terrorists in the Maze.

After an unannounced inspection of Maghaberry in January 1996, Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, said:

"There were a number of prisoners, convicted of very serious offences in England, who had been allowed by the Home Secretary to be transferred from prison in England. Their transfer was specifically to Maghaberry and their wish to transfer to the Maze refused."

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British nominees suffer big-night nerves at thought of saying thank you in front of 2 billion people

## Unknown faces bask in Oscar night limelight

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CINEMA history has been made by a little-known woman whose work has probably been heard by millions. Rachel Portman is the first female composer to be nominated for an Oscar.

She is one of 31 Britons to be nominated for the awards, which will be announced at the annual ceremony tonight. She was chosen for the music she wrote for *Emma*. Her score was inspired by folk music and aimed to support the dialogue "without telling everyone when to laugh". Her other credits include Steve Barron's *Pinocchio*, Norman Jewison's romantic comedy *Only You* and numerous television dramas.

The number of Britons nominated for Oscars this year has almost doubled since 1996. Out of 24 categories, Britons have a starring role in 18 of them.

Portman, 36, from Haslemere, Surrey, nominated for best original musical or comedy score, began composing at

the age of 14. She turned to film when her tutor at Oxford warned her that she would not make it as a "serious" classical composer because her music was too melodic.

Her career began when she wrote a score for a film called *Privileged*, about Oxford students and made entirely by its subjects, which was sold to the BBC. It starred Hugh Grant, Imogen Stubbs and James Wilby. She sent a tape to Alan Parker, who passed it to Sir David Puttnam, who asked Portman to score a Channel 4 film, *Experience Preferred But Not Essential*.

"I don't feel I'm a female composer, just a composer," Portman said. Every film she makes on requires a different compositional style. Yet, she believes that her personality emerges through each one, "in the way I shape melodies, probably also the harmonies I lean towards".

Other unsung heroes of British cinema have also flown into Los Angeles, intent

on having a good time. Among the craftsmen joining the Oscar party circuit for the first time are Tim Harvey, the production designer of Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, which is up for four awards.

"It feels unreal, not the sort of thing that happens to me," he said.

Also nominated for their work on *Hamlet* are Patrick Doyle for original dramatic score and Alexandra Byrne for costume design. Byrne said that choosing an outfit for the ceremony had been a "nightmare". Asked why she had not made something special herself, she explained that she cannot sew. She trained as an architect and did a post-graduate theatre design course. "I gradually made the costume."

Stuart Craig, production designer on *The English Patient* (nominated for the art direction award) has been nominated five times before, winning for *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Gandhi*. Even so, he described the ceremony as nerve-racking.

"It's a hugely publicised television show," he said. "If you are a backroom boy, you're not used to that. If you win, you're talking to 2 billion people around the world. I'm not sure I want to talk to 2 billion people."

But one person who will not be going to the party — although his work has been indirectly recognised with a nomination — is Ivan Sharrock, the production sound mixer on *The English Patient*. He worked on only the last third of the film, and the man who worked on the other two thirds then had to hand over because of other work commitments — Chris Newman, an American — will be going instead. Sharrock said yesterday: "It's a little hard, but there are no sour grapes. I already have won an Oscar, for *The Last Emperor*, and a Bafta, for *The French Lieutenant's Woman*."

Alexandra Byrne with Kate Winslet on the set of *Hamlet*



Rachel Portman, nominated for her score for *Emma*. She began composing for films after being told she would never be a serious composer

## Tea at the beach for foreign invasion force

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES AND GRACE BRADBERRY, STYLE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S Oscar nominees rolled down to the beach in a convoy of limousines on Saturday to soothe their nerves with tea and scones before tonight's prize-giving ritual turns them into winners and runners-up.

In a cavernous ballroom yards from the sands of Santa Monica, Kristin Scott Thomas, who has been nominated as best actress for her performance in *The English Patient*, made quiet conversation. Marianne Jean-Baptiste, nominated as best supporting actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, disclosed that she had borrowed diamonds to deck herself out for the ceremony, and the director Anthony Minghella patted everyone on the back for a British invasion of Hollywood.

"It feels as if the lunatics have taken over the asylum," said Minghella, hot favourite



Jean-Baptiste: named for supporting role

against four rivals for the title of best actress, but in the fashion world, hers is the only name that counts.

The British star is the woman every international designer wants to dress. Fashion shows are one thing, but endorsement from a film-star at the Oscars carries more weight. Scott Thomas may be up

to be named best director for his *The English Patient*. Low-budget independent films have swamped the big studios, with four out of five nominees for the award for best picture being made without the help of Tinseltown.

Ralph Fiennes, one of *The English Patient*'s 12 nominees, was a notable absence from Bafta's annual pre-Oscar tea party, held at a hotel decorated in appropriately colonial style but sponsored by an American airline. The actor's co-star was a guest of honour. "I always ignored the fact that the cinema is a big, nasty industry," Scott Thomas said, dressing down in sandals and plain beige

trousers.

"Now I've been thrown into

an arena I never really recognised — but at least my market-value has gone up."

Scott Thomas may be up

against their ideal clothes horse. "Everyone wanted to dress her," confirms her publicist, adding tantalisingly: "It's going to be a French designer."

But which one? Scott Thomas, who lives in Paris, appears to have visited every couture house in the city. When she appeared in the front row of John Galliano's show for Christian Dior, the deal seemed signed and sealed.

Not so, reveals a Dior spokeswoman. It is a similar story at Givenchy and Chanel.

The obvious contenders having ruled themselves — unless this is a case of elaborate double-bluff — attention turns to less likely candidates.

Scott Thomas wore one of Christian Lacroix's creations for a *Vanity Fair* shoot last year. Could he be in with a chance? "We know she has tried some Lacroix dresses," said a spokeswoman. "But she has also gone to all the other couture houses."

In the meantime, Brenda

Blethyn, who has been nominated as best actress for her role in *Secrets and Lies*, has plumped for Armani, for her Oscars outfit, — as has half of Hollywood. Emily Watson, who has been nominated for the same award, for *Breaking the Waves*, will wear a dress by the British designer Amanda Wakeley. Jean-Baptiste will be wearing a Gianni Versace dress.

One Briton whose head has definitely not been turned by Hollywood, despite the growing admiration for his work from aspiring directors there, is Mike Leigh, whose *Secrets and Lies* has been nominated as best picture.

As is customary with Leigh, who has been nominated as best director, the film was created entirely through improvisation. "I have no plans to move here or work here," Leigh said.

"There are a thousand places I would rather make a film about than Los Angeles."

## Cab driver has a fare night out in Paris

By ADAM FRESCO

A TAXI driver waiting on the rank at Heathrow Airport picked up the fare of a lifetime when a businessman ran out with his had missed his flight to Paris.

Dave Coombs, 41, from Romford, east London, knew that at 9.30pm the man did not have time to catch the last Eurostar or coach from Victoria, so he offered to take him to Dover. "The man was worried that there wouldn't be transport at the other end and asked me to take him all the way to Paris," he said.

"It's a job you dream about, but I had no idea how much it would cost. I asked some guys on the radio. Some were saying £500 or £600 if it was on the meter, which was too expensive for him. In the end I settled for £300 and he paid all the travelling expenses."

"I phoned my wife and told her to get my passport ready. When I got home I offered him something to eat but he just stayed in the cab. It was a round trip of 580 miles, but it was good fun. He got to his important meeting and I got a nice evening out."

## Boy stowaway found dead in jet from Kenya

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE body of a boy was found in the wheel bay of a British Airways jumbo jet after it landed at Gatwick yesterday. Ground crew discovered the boy, aged between eight and 12, in an aircraft that had arrived from Nairobi.

He is believed to have frozen or suffocated to death as the plane flew at temperatures as low as -60F and an altitude of 32,000ft. Police searched beneath the flightpath for other stowaways who might have been accompanying the boy.

It is believed that the child clambered aboard the aircraft minutes before take-off from Nairobi and was trapped in the nosewheel bay before landing when the hydraulic system for lowering the wheels caught him by the legs. He suffered no apparent injuries. He was certified dead at the scene and a post-mortem examination is to be held.

Last October two brothers stowed away in the wheel bay of a jumbo jet on a ten-hour journey from Delhi to London. Pardeep Saini was able to cling to the wheel as the plane landed at Heathrow, but his brother, Vijay, 18, died after falling out over Richmond, southwest London.

A spokeswoman for British Airways said that an investigation had been launched into the boy's death. "Safety is paramount to British Airways and we take this incident very seriously," she said.

## Pilot is grounded in drink alarm

By A STAFF REPORTER

A PILOT who allegedly flew an aircraft while under the influence of alcohol is being investigated after being ordered to land by alarmed air traffic controllers.

The 63-year-old pilot was escorted from the four-seater plane at Southampton airport after an erratic landing in which he was said to have swerved off the runway and almost hit a fence.

The man refused to give a breath test to police, but was seen by a police surgeon who confirmed that he had been drinking. His keys were confiscated and he was released pending an inquiry by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The man, from Denham, Buckinghamshire, had been flying to Jersey when he strayed into London air space on Friday. Air traffic controllers at Heathrow contacted the aircraft, but were concerned with the response they received from the pilot. A CAA spokesman said: "We are looking into it." The man could be charged with endangering aircraft or with endangering people on the ground.

remodelled by the duchess in black and white, with a huge shower and a large bath. This is where she kept her vast collection of essential oils and bath products.

The children's room are painted in yellow and white checks, although the whole house is in need of renovation. The paint is flaking from the window sills in the duchess's bedroom. The 12-acre garden where she played tennis and swam with her daughters is likely to be one of the main attractions for buyers.

There is one other reminder of the duchess which will have to be dealt with before the agents Hamptons and Knight Frank can close the sale — the stack of her post which waits in the hall.

## Duchess's home on market for £3m

By KATHERINE BERGEN

THE six-bedroom former home of Sarah, Duchess of York, goes on the market today for £3 million, or nearest offer.

Unable to afford the monthly rent of £6,000 for the house, Kingsbourne, on the Wentworth estate in Sunningdale, she has returned to her former marital home near by with the Duke of York.

The duchess removed all her personal effects in a pantechnicon two weeks ago, but signs of the family linger. Lady and Barclay, her two dalmatians, are still at Kingsbourne, as are their feeding bowls.

The house where the duchess confided in Ruby Wax last

year has hundreds of nail holes bearing witness to the countless photographs she put on the walls.

On the first floor, the duchess had a three-room suite with bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. Centrepiece of

her boudoir was a divan bed made by the London Bedding Centre of Sloane Street. The labels on the drawers have gone, but the wardrobes still appear to bear the marks of the duchess's categorisation system. The bathroom was

remodelled by the duchess in black and white, with a huge shower and a large bath. This is where she kept her vast collection of essential oils and bath products.

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# Disagreement on format puts TV debate in jeopardy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER  
AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE much-heralded election debate between John Major and Tony Blair was in the balance last night after the Conservatives accepted the format proposed by the broadcasters but Labour hardened their objections but Labour hardened their objections.

The Labour leadership made plain that in today's negotiations between the parties and the BBC and ITV it would insist on audience participation in the debate. However Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, said that Labour wanted to pull the plug because it feared that Mr Blair

would crack under tough questioning. There were strong signs last night that Lord Irvine of Lairg, Mr Blair's negotiator, would take a tough line in today's talks. Apart from saying the audience should be allowed to question the leaders, he will also back the right of Paddy Ashdown to an equal hearing, putting another obstacle in the way.

Although Labour says it wants a debate, it sees no reason in giving it to the Conservatives on their terms. Labour believes that Mr Major is pressing for the confrontation now as a desperate measure to try to bite into the Labour lead. It believes that with Mr Major trailing so far behind in the polls, a draw would be

a good result for him in the debate and sees no reason why Mr Blair or Mr Ashdown should bend over to accept the Conservative rules of engagement.

There is also irritation at the broadcasters for accepting the broad Conservative terms in their eagerness to stage what would be an historic electoral event. But Dr Mawhinney said yesterday that the Conservatives had accepted the "fundamental principles" of proposals from the broadcasters.

He said: "So far as we are concerned there is no reason for the debate now not to go ahead." Dr Mawhinney said the broadcasters agreed the main focus should be

on a two-hour debate between the two main leaders, that it should be of sufficient length to be a true test and that Mr Ashdown should be included on a "fair basis". The debate should be conducted with dignity, and not descend to a "bearpit atmosphere".

Although Dr Mawhinney's statement did not say it, the Tories will today argue for two 90-minute debates. They accept there should be an audience in the studio but that there should not be audience participation.

There were also signs yesterday that the BBC is losing patience. Senior BBC executives feared that the broadcasters were being used as

pawns in a point-scoring match between Labour and the Tories and had considered calling off negotiations. Labour's announcement last week that it wanted audience participation in the debate was regarded as another late attempt to move the goalposts, despite the fact that discussions about a possible debate have been taking place since January.

A source said: "The formats will have to be finalised by Thursday of this week to have a fighting chance of going ahead. After Thursday we are into Easter."

The debates are provisionally scheduled for April 13, 20, or 27. That means the first debate will

happen two weeks after Easter Sunday. For this to happen everything must be agreed and finalised by this week otherwise it becomes impossible to organise things in time."

Today representatives of the three parties will meet Marion Bowman, deputy controller of factual programmes for the ITV Network.

There are also plans for a meeting with Tony Hall, head of news and current affairs at the BBC. Michael Dobbs, the thriller writer and former Tory party deputy chairman, will represent Mr Major. Mr Ashdown has appointed Lord Holme of Cheltenham as his negotiator.

## Veteran MPs not to stand

Labour Party chiefs are to draw up shortlists of potential candidates to replace two veteran MPs who have announced their retirement.

Doug Hoyle, 67, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said he would not recontest Warrington North, where he has a majority of 12,622. Norman Hogg, 59, a former deputy chief whip, said he would not fight Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, where he has a 9,215 majority.

Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, and Mike Watson — whose constituencies are disappearing — are frontrunners for the two seats.

## Labour signs football clubs

Labour will unveil plans today to set up homework centres at Premiership football clubs to help to raise children's literacy standards. Pupils who are having trouble in class will be encouraged to do their homework at the clubs after school before playing a game of football. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, will say Chelsea, Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and Arsenal have joined the scheme and will help to set up pilot study support centres.

## Muslims urged to take part

A leading Muslim body has condemned Islamic extremists who have called on the Muslim community to take no part in the election. The Muslim College, headed by Dr Zaki Badawi, a well-known moderate, has advised that all Muslims should take part. "Taking part is a religious as well as a civic duty," the college says in a document published today.

The report also finds that women are more prepared to accept higher taxes to fund extra education, health and pensions than their male counterparts. The report is being sent to all sitting MPs and prospective candidates in marginal seats.

Almost one in three women have not yet decided how to vote, according to a MORI poll.

Evening Standard might support Labour, Lord Rothermere hinted.

Last night, Peter Wright, the deputy editor of the *Daily Mail*, said that his newspaper "will be reporting the campaigns of all the parties with its usual vigour. Only when we have a full picture of what the parties have to offer will we consider offering our readers advice on voting preferences."

Last week Mr Major lost another former ally, *The Sun*, which declared on the front page its conversion to Mr Blair's new Labour.

# Al Fayed kept no record of alleged payments to MPs

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE businessman Mohamed Al Fayed, who triggered the cash-for-questions controversy, kept no record of his payments to MPs, but claims that Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000.

It emerged yesterday that in his evidence to Sir Gordon Downey, the parliamentary standards commissioner who is investigating the affair, Mr Al Fayed appears to have grossly underestimated the amount he paid to Tim Smith, the Tory MP for Beaconsfield.

Transcripts obtained by *The Times* of Mr Al Fayed's evidence to the Downey inquiry disclose that he did not keep records of his alleged cash payments to MPs. Challenged directly by the inquiry about the amount of money he gave MPs, he replied: "It is really difficult to remember this. Hamilton maybe took £40,000, £50,000 or £60,000. Smith maybe about £10,000."

Mr Smith, who resigned as Northern Ireland Minister in October 1994, ten days after the Prime Minister was told about the undeclared transactions, has told Sir Gordon that he received between £18,000 and £25,000.

Mr Al Fayed bitterly criticised Mr Smith and Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, who were endorsed as election candidates by their Conservative associations at the weekend. He told Sir Gordon: "People like that have no dignity, no honour; they will sell their mothers for money."

The new disclosures come as the Government voiced hopes that the sleaze controversy would subside. One Tory MP, Richard Shepherd, backed calls for Parliament to be recalled to enable the Downey report to be considered. But there were signs that Labour, as well as Tory lead-

ers, was trying to move attention to campaign issues. One Labour source said that sleaze had overshadowed several topics the party had hoped to highlight last week.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday he would be happy for Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith to visit his constituency during the campaign, adding: "I would go to both of their constituencies and campaign for them, because in Britain we have a rather quaint idea of justice: you're innocent until you're proved guilty."

Alison Foster, a trainee solicitor who told a Sunday

Foster: question over her legal future

newspaper that she had put cash for Mr Hamilton into envelopes while a personal assistant to Mr Al Fayed, may face questions about her future career in the legal world. Mr Hamilton, in a submission to Sir Gordon, has asked whether she is suitable to be a solicitor having admitted taking part in illicit activities".

In his evidence to Sir Gordon, Mr Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, is also highly critical of Sir Andrew Bowden, the MP for Brighton Kemp-

## PM's wife fears ignominious exit

BY JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL REPORTER

NORMA MAJOR called yesterday for an end to the "ignominious" tradition under which an ousted Prime Minister is forced to leave Downing Street within hours of his defeat at the polls.

While she insisted that John Major was going to win the election, the Prime Minister's wife said any departing leader should be able to leave with dignity. Unlike other world leaders, British Prime Ministers are hustled out of their offices on the day they lose the election. If Labour wins in the early hours of May 2, Mr Major would be likely to deliver his resignation to the Queen in the morning and be out of Downing Street by early

afternoon. The speed of departure has led to embarrassing moments for men who until hours before were running the country. Sir Edward Heath was left homeless in 1974 and forced to live in his aide's flat for several months. Harold Wilson was reduced to sneaking his possessions out the back of Downing Street in 1970.

In the United States, ousted Presidents have several months between their defeat and their successor's installation. In Canada and New Zealand, Prime Ministers have about a week to pack their bags.

In a newspaper interview Mrs Major said she believed the Tories would win. But she expressed concern at the way Prime Ministers were removed. "One is hustled out rather ignominiously, which

I think is shameful," she said. "I don't think that any incoming Prime Minister actually would expect the outgoing Prime Minister to disappear by lunchtime the next day."

She added: "I think someone should take a grip of the situation. I mean no outgoing Prime Minister is going to want to cling on. You want to make a fairly smart move. But one should be able to do it with dignity."

An explanation emerged yesterday for Mrs Major's downbeat appearance during the early days of the election campaign. She has been spending time looking after her mother, who is suffering from cancer. In her interview she said: "She has cancer but we think she is on the mend."

## Tories may lose Fleet Street allies

BY CAROL MIDGLEY

JOHN MAJOR suffered another setback yesterday when it was reported that Associated Newspapers had tempered its traditionally staunch support for the Tory party.

Lord Rothermere, chairman of the group that publishes the *Daily Mail*, the *Mail on Sunday* and the *London Evening Standard*, was quoted as saying: "I don't think we will actually endorse anybody. I don't believe in newspapers supporting parties. The proper duty is to report what happens. The *Daily Mail* is

independent. It has always embraced the policy of the Tories because the policy of the Labour Party was not acceptable." Lord Rothermere told the *Independent on Sunday*, adding that this time, however, "we have two political parties with policies not terribly different, the difference being the question of credibility."

Only the opposition of the *Daily Mail's* Editor, Paul Dacre, was said to have stopped the paper backing Mr Blair. He is said to have argued that this would anger diehard Tory readers. The

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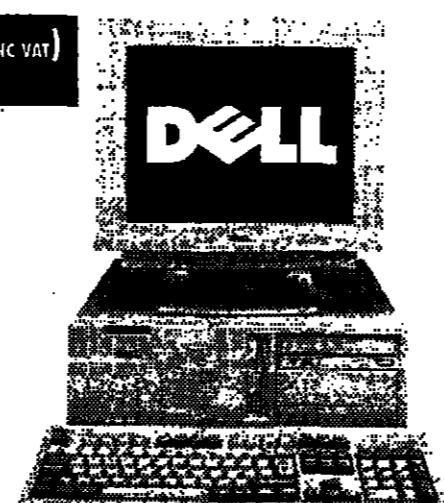
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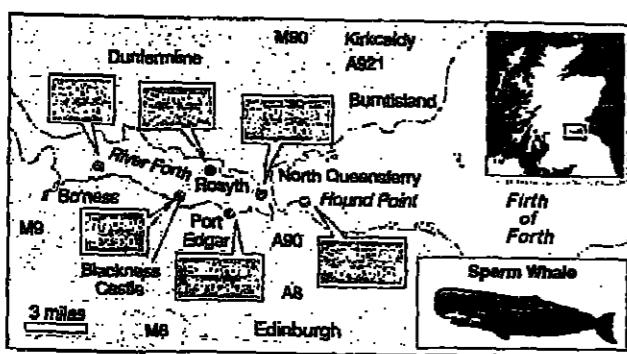
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# Fate of stranded whale hinges on high tide

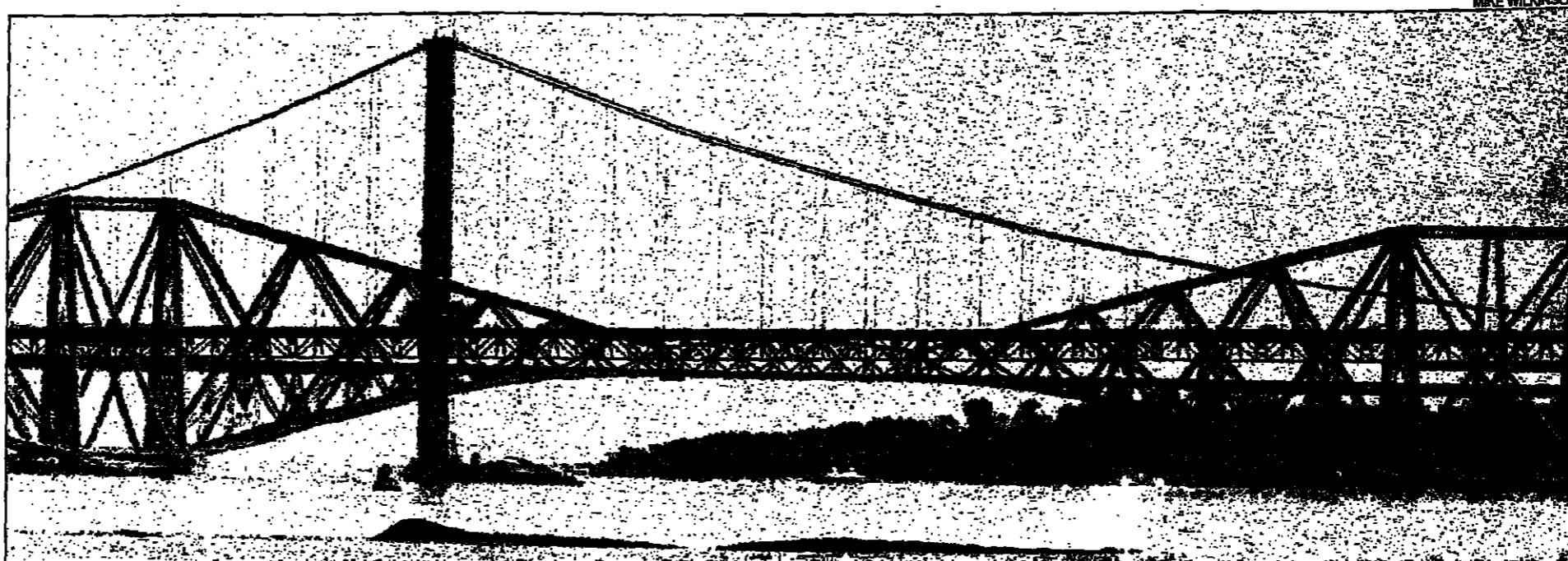


By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of sightseers armed with binoculars, cameras and telescopes lined both banks of the River Forth yesterday to watch a flotilla of boats attempt to shepherd a 40ft sperm whale to the safety of the deep ocean.

There was a carnival atmosphere in North and South Queensferry as hundreds of sightseers from all over Scotland caught a glimpse of the first sperm whale in the Forth for 20 years.

In the river, which was calm in the bright March sunshine, a man-made operation involving 11 boats, the Ministry of Defence, Force Navigation, British Petroleum, the Coastguard, the Forth Road and Railbridge Operators and the police was underway to pre-



The whale had to pass beneath the Forth bridges to reach the deeper waters of the North Sea, but last night was stranded on a sandbank. Rescuers hoped the tide would move it

Todd, curator of Deep Sea World and the man coordinating the rescue, said the whale was causing a great deal of concern. "If it beaches, it is in serious trouble. The whale has become confused by the shape of the Firth of Forth, the high level of shipping activity and the traffic on both Forth

bridges. The strong spring tides have also caused some problems."

Last night the whale appeared to become stuck on a shell of sandbank beyond the bridges not far from the open sea. Dr Todd said it was a small setback, but he was not overly concerned. "The whale

is likely to get off with the flood tide and we will be keeping the MoD boat and the BP tug in the area until it refloats."

The sperm whale, *Physeter catodon*, has evolved to live in deep water so effectively that it is in danger of stranding whenever it moves inshore. As

soon as it is unsupported by the water its massive weight crushes its internal organs giving would-be rescuers little chance of helping it.

The whale in the Forth is believed to have lost its bearings during its annual migration from the Arctic to the Azores. It lives on giant squid, fish and octopus and there is very little for it to eat in the Forth. But conservationists say that it is in much greater danger of stranding than of starving.

By 5.30pm yesterday the flotilla of boats, including three BP tugs which normally cost £20,000 per day to operate,

the Maid of the Forth, a commercial ferry, the MoD launch, a coastguard vessel and a Forth road bridge safety vessel, had pushed the whale beyond the Forth bridges.

Shipping in the river, the second busiest waterway in Britain after the English channel, was reduced.

## Governors sack disciplinarian girls' school head

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A HEADMISTRESS who imposed a uniform code on her staff has been sacked by governors after teachers and parents lost confidence in her strict leadership style.

Yvonne Graham, described as a disciplinarian by parents, took charge of the all-girl Clifton High School, in Bristol, four terms ago. She caused a stir after she arrived at the successful independent school by insisting that all male staff wore white shirts and ties and by banning the female teachers from wearing trousers.

Mrs Graham also drew criticism from parents at the £8,500-a-year school for clamping down firmly on a traditional end-of-term prank by sixth formers last summer. Greg Cairns, president of the school council, the governing body, said yesterday: "There was a loss of confidence among a large group of parents and staff. All sorts of things can give rise to that."

"It was not a personality clash *per se*, and it wasn't a matter of conduct or capability. There is no one single issue which gave rise to the loss of confidence. This decision was reached after some time and with enormous re-

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TIMES 24/7

# BALLOT 97

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 10. Employment

## Argument centres on Labour's approach to the job

EVEN with unemployment falling and the number of jobs growing, poll evidence suggests that jobs and the number of people out of work will be a key factor in the election. Though the main parties are close on a range of economic issues, the labour market is an area of sharp political division.

Conservatives support continuing and indeed greater deregulation of the labour market. A jobs market hindered by a few regulations as possible is one in which unemployment will fall, and employment will grow, they argue. Labour and the Liberal Democrats, which have only slight policy differences, believe in greater intervention in the labour market through some degree of regulation and through government measures to improve skills and to create jobs for the young and the long-term unemployed. Jobs, in their view,

will come through the better economic growth produced by a more skilled workforce and regulation will provide a floor of minimum employment standards to protect people at work.

In the election, the argument over jobs will focus on a handful of Labour policies, rather than the Conservatives' jobs record since 1979. Labour is proposing to introduce a statutory national minimum wage, to end the opt-out from the social chapter of the European Union's Maastricht treaty, and to pass legislation requiring employers to recognise trade unions for collective bargaining if a majority of their workforce wants it. Tony Blair insists, however, that there will be no return to compulsory union membership under the closed shop system of the 1960s and 1970s.

In addition, Labour is proposing a one-off windfall tax on the profits

of privatised utilities to fund a new programme which will guarantee a job, community service or training place to 250,000 young people on the dole. The windfall levy will also pay for a £75-per-week subsidy to employers who offer jobs to the long-term unemployed. Labour's quid pro quo for this job creation will be tougher measures to withdraw benefits from people who refuse offers of training or jobs.

Labour claims that such combinations of carrots and sticks have been effective in putting people back to work in Australia and several American states. The Tories do not reject the principle of in-work benefits and employment subsidies — they have launched several pilot programmes along the same lines — but they argue that Labour's blanket approach will prove costly, could encourage employers to sack workers to take

advantage of the subsidies, and will waste money by paying for jobs that would have been created even without the state handouts.

The Conservatives' inward investment by foreign companies as a clear indicator of the success of their deregulation strategy, though inward investors rarely cite employment conditions as the prime reason for their location decisions. Since 1979, inward-investor companies have provided or guaranteed 790,000 jobs.

Labour counters that the Conservatives' policy of job market deregulation has led directly to widespread feelings of work insecurity, undermining the social benefits of the reduction in unemployment since 1982. Economists are debating, however, how extensive

such job insecurity actually is. Europe is central to all these arguments. In parallel with the project in the 1980s to create a single market, the European Commission sought to protect employees with new regulatory initiatives. The Maastricht treaty's social chapter, an agreement of ways to promote new job regulation, is the latest of these. So far the social chapter directives have covered fairly innocuous issues such as parental leave, but the Tories claim that other, more contentious, policies could be added to the social chapter if the UK signed up. Ministers claim that abandoning the UK's opt-out from the social chapter will lead to the loss of at least half a million jobs, and will have little impact, but would damage precisely the competitive advantage that has seen inward-investor companies coming to the UK, rather than other EU states.

Others point out, however, that the US has a national minimum wage, which has not prevented it from generating millions of jobs for unskilled workers.

The Tories see old Labour, and especially the unions, lurking in the minimum wage and union recognition proposals. But Labour insists that the main purpose of the minimum wage is to prevent employers from exploiting their workers and forcing them to claim government benefits.

As for the unions, they are unlikely to play an important part in the electoral debate about employment. In 1979, they had a central role in the election. Now they are rarely mentioned, even by the Tories: a demonstration of the way the political argument has shifted from industrial relations to the creation of jobs.

### THE POLITICS

## Pay gap has grown with demand for new skills

IN 1979, total employment in Britain stood at 25.5 million. In February 1997, it was 26.1 million — a net job growth over the Conservative years of 655,000. In 1979, unemployment had risen to 1.2 million. Now it stands at 1.8 million, 659,500 higher, even after falling fairly constantly for the past four years.

On such stark, simple facts, one judgment of Britain's jobs record under the Conservatives can be reached — that the UK's job performance has been indifferent at best.

However, recalling the employment issues on which the 1979 election was largely fought — Britain's industrial relations performance and the disruptive role of the trade unions — the record over the past 18 years has been an unqualified success.

With 13.3 million employees in trade unions in 1979, Britain lost 29.5 million working days through strikes. Now, with union membership down to 60 per cent of its 1979 level and still falling despite the recent recovery of employment itself, strikes are all but unknown in the private sector, and the number of days lost through strikes last year was just over a million, only 4 per cent of its 1979 total. Nor for nothing is the reform of the unions usually cited as the Conservative Government's most significant achievement.

But to choose industrial peace, or the number of jobs, as the sole measure of the Conservative employment record is to belie the shifting complexities that characterise the British labour market. Between the start and the possible endpoint of the Tory period there have been a number of other important changes which make Britain's labour market today significantly different from the way it was when Margaret Thatcher took office.

Labour markets do not change in isolation, and the transformations of the British labour market have taken place against the background of two fundamental and linked trends which have af-

### THE RECORD

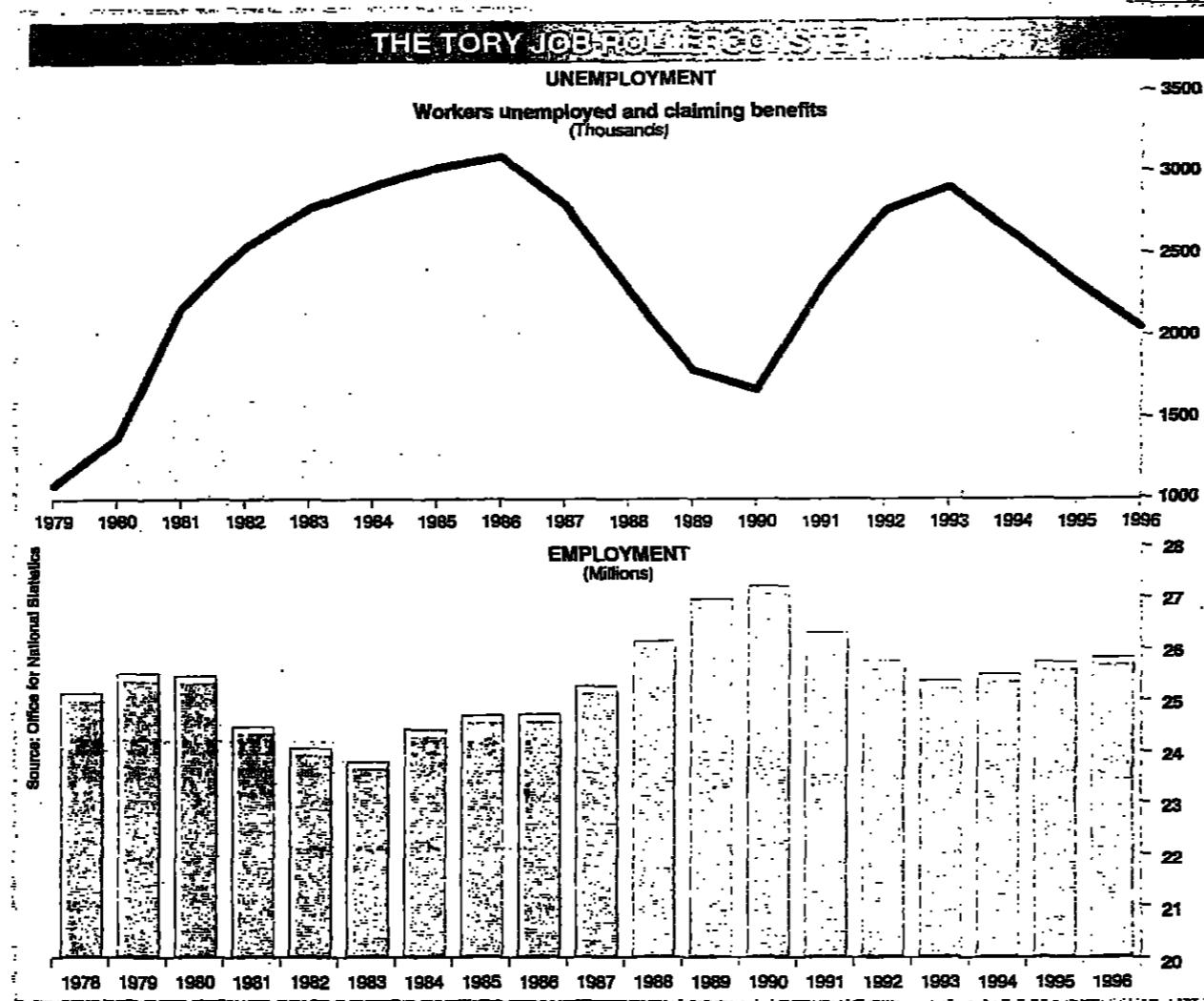
fected economies across the world — the shifting pattern of world trade and the application of new technologies.

Both moves have put strong pressure on jobs in advanced industrial countries such as Britain. As newly emerging economies have entered the world market, multinational firms have been forced to keep their costs highly competitive by seeking lower unit-labour costs and wage rates, an objective which has often been easier to achieve in highly deregulated labour markets.

At the same time, continuing technological advances have meant that many jobs which used to be heavily labour-intensive now either no longer exist, or can be done with a fraction of the workforce. The two trends have often been intertwined. Bookings made in the UK for some airline tickets, for example, used to be manually processed across the counter. Now they are handled by cheaper ticket operators based in South East Asia, linked to Britain by telephones, modems and computers. Changes in trade and technology have gone hand in hand, and clerical jobs have been lost in Britain as a result.

The other side of this coin, however, has been rapid growth in business services and finance, both industries in which Britain has been able to exploit its comparative advantages with the help of technology and the easing of trade barriers and capital controls. Financial services in all their forms today employ the same proportion of Britain's workforce as manufacturing.

This is the kind of evidence used by ministers to support their claim that a more flexible labour market has been the most critical component in Britain's increased prosperity and successful economic performance. Labour under Tony Blair has officially acknowledged these claims, at least in part, but has also suggested that misguided economic poli-



cies — including excessive deregulation and inadequate emphasis on training — have exposed workers to exploitation, have lost jobs that could have been preserved, and have damaged society by destroying job security and undermining long-term investment.

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Looking at this more generous estimate in greater detail helps to explain some of the pessimism which persists about jobs. Although total employment in Britain has risen, the number of jobs held by men has gone down by 4.6 per cent during the Tory years. An increase of almost two million in jobs held by women has more than accounted for

the whole growth of employment. This shift between the sexes has pushed the proportion of all jobs held by women up from 39 per cent in 1979 to 45 per cent now.

There have also been marked shifts in the age-structure of the workforce, with many older workers forced or encouraged to take early retirement, to be replaced by younger workers on lower wages, whose pensions have also been cheaper to fund.

The types of employment have also seen significant changes. In 1979, the number of people in full-time jobs stood at 18.7 million. Now it is down to 16.7 million, a drop of more than 10 per cent. Full-time jobs used to comprise 77 per cent of the total. Now they are less than two thirds. Part-time working, seen as a hallmark of the UK's more flexible labour market, is up from 3.9 million to 5.7 million — a 45 per cent rise, with part-time work now accounting for more than a fifth of Britain's jobs total.

Most of this part-time activity has reflected the preferences of women with family responsibilities, but a large proportion of the part-time working has been involuntary — about 15 per cent of part-time employees say they would prefer to have full-time jobs. And the greater entrepreneurship of

the Thatcherite 1980s has also been reflected in the large rise of self-employment, up by 86 per cent from 1.8 million in 1979 to 3.3 million now. As a share of all jobs, self-employment has risen from 7 per cent to 13 per cent now.

There have been clear switches between sectors: a 42 per cent fall in employment in primary industries such as mining, and a fall of more than 30 per cent in manufacturing employment, which at 7.2 million in 1979 comprised 30 per cent of the total. At 4.9 million now, it is down to 19 per cent.

At the same time, the number of people working in business and financial services has more than doubled, to 3.6 million. And despite the Government's drive to reduce public sector numbers, the total number of people working in the public and social services is up by a fifth, to 1.3 million.

Regions such as East Anglia and the South West have seen sharp rises overall in jobs, by more than 20 per cent, though the South East still holds sway in the job market, taking a total share of 34 per cent in jobs in 1979 and almost unchanged now at 33 per cent.

Finally, in occupational terms, the decline of manual employment continues, down by more than 3.5 million since 1979, or 31 per cent. Jobs in

service areas such as sales are up in total by 19 per cent, while professional and managerial jobs now form the largest part of total employment, at 36 per cent or 9.3 million in all.

These drastic changes in the demand for different skills and occupations have been the main cause of the widening in earnings inequality throughout the Tory period, although some Labour politicians would also blame the less progressive tax structure and the general climate of "Tory greed".

The precise extent to which the rich have become relatively richer and the poor have got poorer is a matter of intense dispute among economists. This is not a question which can be settled objectively by any one set of figures, since the answer depends critically on whether the comparisons are made between individuals or households, and on whether welfare benefits, in cash and in kind, are taken into account. What almost nobody denies is that the gap between rich and poor has widened. The question to be answered is whether this has been caused by changes in the nature of technology, trade and employment, and whether it can be narrowed by putting a different party in power.

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### THE POLITICIANS

#### GILLIAN SHEPHERD



Age: 57.

Education: North Walsham High School. Modern languages at St Hilda's, Oxford.

Family: two stepsons.

Experience: former schools inspector, county councillor. Became MP for Norfolk South West in 1987 and rose through Treasury, becoming Employment Secretary, moving to Agriculture, Education and Employment. Politics: dry economically. Major loyalist and friend, cited as possible centrist contender for leadership.

#### DAVID BLUNKETT



Age: 49.

Education: Royal Normal College for the Blind, Shrewsbury, night school and day release, then politics at Sheffield University.

Family: three children at local comprehensive.

Experience: former leader of Sheffield City Council. Became MP for Sheffield Brightside in 1987. Health and Education before taking both Education and Employment. Likely to retain his post if Labour wins. Politics: standard-bearer of the old "soft Left" in Labour, now moved to the Centre.

### WHAT THEY SAID

Unemployment must be the main preoccupation of economic policymakers in the 1990s.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor

The extent of job insecurity is going to be a central feature of the general election.

Tony Blair

My father did not wait around... he got on his bike and went out looking for work.

Norman Tebbit, Employment Secretary 1981-93

Rising unemployment and the recession have been the price that we've had to pay to get inflation down. That is a price well worth paying.

Norman Lamont, Chancellor 1990-93

What I am saying is that job insecurity is a state of mind. The reality is, by creating a flexible labour market, we have actually been creating more jobs.

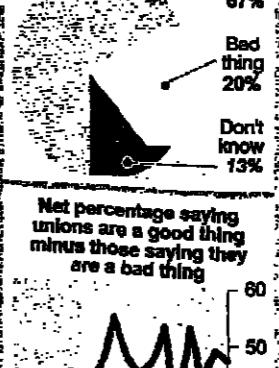
Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade

It's a recession when your neighbour loses his job. It's a depression when you lose your own.

Harry S. Truman, US President, 1945-52

### THE FACTS

#### PUBLIC ATTITUDE TO TRADE UNIONS



□ Britain's total workforce is now 28 million — 22.2 million employees, 3.4 million self-employed, 220,000 in Armed Forces, 200,000 on training schemes, and 1.8 million unemployed.

□ In Britain, 74 per cent of the working-age population is in work, compared with 77 per cent in Japan and 78 per cent in the USA, and with 68 per cent in the EU.

□ Seventy-five per cent of the British workforce is in full-time work, with a quarter working part-time. For women, 55 per cent are in full-time and 45 per cent in part-time work.

□ Unemployment in Britain now stands at 6.5 per cent, compared with 5.3 per cent in the USA, 3.2 per cent in Japan, 9.3 per cent in Germany and 12.5 per cent in France, and with 10.9 per cent for the EU as a whole.

□ Average earnings in Britain are £351.70 a week — £18,300 a year. For men the weekly figure is £391.60, and for women £283.

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flotation

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PENSIONS

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# Synagogue accused of sex bias over Gryn post

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the country's leading synagogues is divided over whether it should appoint a woman as senior rabbi. Accusations of prejudice have been made against officials of the West London Synagogue, the renowned centre of Reform Judaism formerly led by the late Hugo Gryn.

Members of the congregation want the synagogue's popular associate minister, Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, to succeed Dr Gryn, who died last year. The synagogue council has decided to look elsewhere. Insiders at the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (RSCB) and the synagogue itself believe that Mrs Tabick is opposed because she is a woman. A petition in support of Rabbi Tabick, who has served the synagogue for many years, has attracted 500 signatures.

Dr Richard Stone, a vice-president of the RSCB and a worshipping member of the synagogue, said: "I feel that she has not been treated well. A large number of people feel the same thing. I have no doubt that there is prejudice against having a woman in such a senior position. It is very unfortunate, because for the ordinary person the most

obvious difference between Reform and Orthodox Jewry is that we have women rabbis, and men and women can sit together in the synagogue."

Another insider, who asked not be named, said: "She is a charming and capable person. But they won't give her the job because she is not a man. It is as simple as that."

The *Jewish Chronicle* reports claims that support for Rabbi Tabick is less widespread than had been thought, and that some members had been "coerced" to sign the petition.

With more than 2,000 families, the West London Synagogue, founded more than 150 years ago, has the largest membership of any synagogue in the country. It became known far beyond the Jewish community under the leadership of Rabbi Gryn, a Holocaust survivor who became a nationally known broadcaster and who was assiduous in helping to improve inter-faith relations. The post is viewed as one of Britain's most important rabbinical appointments.

The synagogue's rabbinical appointment council has considered various proposals, including appointing three rabbis to replace Dr Gryn, with Rabbi Tabick as "pastoral" rabbi. Rabbi Tabick rejected these plans but is understood still to be considering modified proposals.

In a letter to members of the congregation, seen by *The Times*, the synagogue's president, David Lewin, and its chairman, Jeff Samson, referred to "action on the part of a few of our members — which can only be harmful — to question the decision of our elected council".

Rabbi Tabick was unavailable for comment last night.



Brave hearts: Heather Ripley with her daughter Josie, 9, at the site of her latest environmental protest in Scotland

## Actress moves from screen to green

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CHILD star of the film *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* has taken on the role of an environmental protester. Heather Ripley, who in the film helps her screen father, Dick Van Dyke, to overthrow a monarch who hates children, now travels the country trying to defend nature.

At the weekend she pitched her tent at Pressmennan Wood, East Lothian, where a company intends to fell 300 old trees. The protesters are camped around a flag of the Scottish lion on Clinto Dodi Hill, near the village of Stanton. Ms Ripley, 37, who also worked as a model in the United States, is accompanied by her daughter Josie, 9, and son Cosmo, 11.

Her previous performances for the "eco-warriors" have stretched from repertory in Dundee and spent 14 months making *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, which came out in 1968. Her environmental campaigning was inspired by a film of Australian protesters who chained themselves to trees. The feature film

On film: as Jemima, centre, in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*

*Braveheart* roused her passions to protect the countryside in her home country.

She said: "I was amazed at the dedication of people chained to trees and in the path of bulldozers. Their tactics seemed spectacular. It seemed far removed from nice quiet life and something I was unlikely ever to become involved in."

"But I heard of the plans to put a road through an ancient burial chamber in Lewis and I had to get involved. Although we failed to stop the building of the road, that first step of action changed my life."

The Forestry Commission said the oaks were to be felled under a new management plan to preserve the long-term future of Pressmennan Wood, which had no young trees to replace the mature ones when they died.

## Bishop to reveal new plans for bombed church

By LIN JENKINS

A NEW proposal for the bomb-damaged medieval church of St Ethelberga, Bishopsgate, in the City of London, could end four years of wrangling in the Church.

Plans for a modern glass-fronted design that left exposed the parts of the church damaged by an IRA bomb were rejected by City planners last year. The Rt Rev Richard Charlies, Bishop of London, will announce the latest proposal tomorrow.

It is understood that the revised plans envisage St Ethelberga being re-opened as a centre for peace, reconciliation and mediation. It is unclear what plans the bishop has for the fabric of the building, about a third of which was destroyed.

Traditionalists had pressed for the Grade One listed building to be restored, with its medieval street frontage, roof and 18th-century bell tower. The decision to look again at the future of the building came after planners rejected the design by the architects Blee Ettrick in Bridges to redevelop the site after some Church leaders argued that there were too many churches in the City.

Planners deemed the £3 million scheme — which would have encased the ruins in glass and steel and incorporated a memorial garden, gallery and office building — as "inappropriate".

Observations were raised by the Ancient Monuments Society, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the London Society, the Retail Traders Association, the City Heritage Society and the Friends of St Ethelberga.

The friends had lobbied for a plan by the architects Rothermel Thomas. It proposed rebuilding the church, including the popular walled garden, to provide "a valuable ecclesiastical and meeting space" in the City.

## Three exam boards to merge

Three examination boards are to combine after a government demand for mergers to protect A-level and GCSE standards. Further cuts in the range of syllabuses available to schools are expected to follow the merger of the Associated Examining Board, Northern Examinations and Assessments Board and City & Guilds. Boards have already been asked to reduce to two each the number of syllabuses per subject by next year.

### Buzzards return

Buzzards have returned to the Yorkshire Dales after an absence of 150 years. Bird watchers have recorded at least 15 pairs, raising hopes that the rare species will colonise the east of the country once more.

### Hand severed

Surgeons reattached a man's hand after it was severed by an attacker with a samurai sword. It was too early to say if the victim, 25, from Wigan, would lose that hand. A man aged 22 was charged with grievous bodily harm.

### Places pledge

Independent schools were reassured that new assisted places will be honoured if Labour wins the general election, even though the Department for Education has stopped confirming them during the election period.

### Burger relish

A free burger for pupils who rarely play truant has been negotiated with McDonald's by Rhodri Lewis, a teacher at Cwm Rhymni school, Bargoed, Caerphilly. Other incentives are geometry sets, book tokens and Easter eggs.

### Tenor's farewell

Luciano Pavarotti is to make a farewell gesture to the Royal Opera House's present building with a recital accompanied by piano on May 11. Tickets are likely to cost up to £125. The building is to close for a two-year redevelopment.

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# Cheaper laser eye surgery may put standards at risk

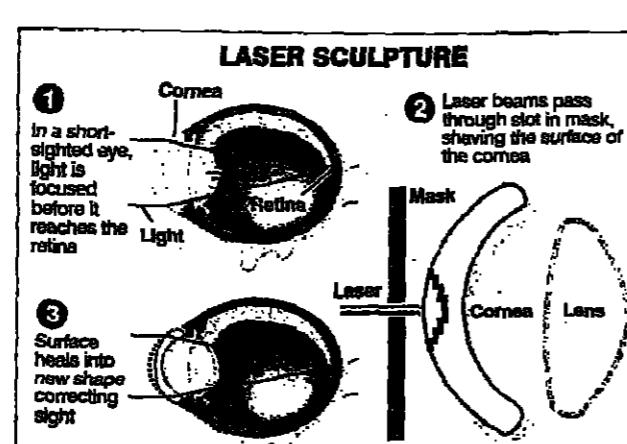
BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

CUT-PRICE laser treatment to correct short sight may lead to a fall in standards, optometrists have warned. The price of the treatment has dropped from about £1,500 per eye to less than £300 in two years, and up to 15,000 patients a year now have the surgery.

The British College of Optometrists says that the technique, which involves shaving a tiny layer from the surface of the cornea to correct the focus, is still experimental, and this should be explained by the 25 laser clinics to their patients. Keith Edwards, professional adviser to the college, said:

"The real concern is over the quality of the procedure and how it is conducted. In general the results are pretty good, pretty predictable and pretty stable. But that is the average and there are always extreme responses."

Problems included scarring and distortion of vision, but they were rare, he said. Most patients would experience an improvement in vision, but it might not be sufficient to allow them to dispense with specta-



cles, and the treatment could not halt the normal decline in vision with age.

Mr Edwards said: "The problem is that, once it is done, it cannot be undone. Most other methods of correcting sight are reversible. Even with contact lenses you can always take them out."

Clearsight, a London clinic, was charging £1,400 per eye in 1994, including aftercare, but dropped its price to £995 more than a year ago and has recently cut it again to £295, including one follow-up visit. The initial assessment and

subsequent follow-ups are charged at £25 each. Vivian Highman, consultant ophthalmologist at the clinic, said: "Like any commodity, laser treatment was more expensive when it first came out. Now we know more accurately what can be done." Mr Highman said all care was provided by consultants and, although the clinic's laser was an older model, it had been upgraded four times. "It is virtually the same as the modern ones," he said.

Russell Ambrose, owner of the Optimax chain of five laser

clinics which treats more than 200 patients a week and charges £395 per eye, including aftercare, said economies of scale made the lower price possible. "It's a business. We are a specialist provider."

He said consultants provided the initial assessment and the treatment but the follow-up checks were by opticians. "If there are any complications the doctor will see the patient again. The opticians are under the control and supervision of the doctor and legal responsibility for the patients remains with the doctor."

Charles Magee, Professor of Ophthalmology at Dundee University and chairman of the British Contact Laser Society, said: "If you have low prices you may have to rush patients through to meet financial goals." He said the high price of lasers, at £400,000 each, meant charges had to be high in the early years but could be reduced once the machine had been paid for. The older machines were adequate for simple, low-level shortsightedness but might not be for complex problems.

Science Briefing, page 15

## Clear alternative to glasses is not an easy choice

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

**S**hort sight is to a large extent inherited. Its incidence varies from one race to another: in the Far East more than 90 per cent of students in some universities need to wear spectacles because of the condition.

It is uncertain what link there is between short sight and a high IQ. The Victorians thought that eyes could become strained by years spent poring over books, but a few decades ago the popular medical view was that shortsighted people gravitated towards the library because they found it hard to excel at games. Recently there has been support for a theory that a high IQ and short sight may, in some cases, be part of a genetic package.

Short sight may start in early childhood and is usually obvious by puberty. The eyesight may continue to deteriorate and usually becomes stabilised in the early 20s. Wearing glasses may affect self-esteem and be an inconvenience at work and at play. Contact lenses may be uncomfortable and may cause serious infection.

Vision is impaired by too great a distance between the front of the cornea and the retina, the membrane at the back of the eye which converts the images that it receives into nerve impulses for transmission to the brain. The cornea and lens in a shortsighted person focus the viewed image to a point well in front of the retina, so it is out of focus. Ophthalmologists in Russia

DR THOMAS  
STUTTAFORD

were the first to popularise surgery to correct short sight. They altered the shape of the eyeball, making it rounder and therefore less long, by cutting radial incisions. This technique, known as radial keratotomy, was greeted with some suspicion in the West although a Russian hospital ship did brisk trade when it toured the Mediterranean coast offering the operation.

Some British surgeons use the technique and claim excellent results without serious complications, but its popularity has been reduced by concern about the long-term effects and the danger of rupture of the eyeball.

In laser surgery, the eye's focusing mechanism is altered by shaving the cornea with a laser beam. The technique has proved reliable and is popular with patients.

The success of laser therapy is dependent on choosing a surgeon who is very selective when deciding which patients should be offered the operation. The primary objective must be to improve the sight of a person who feels that their life is being spoilt by having to wear spectacles.

When trouble has arisen, usually it has been because clinical judgment has been warped by the need to earn guineas, so that unsuitable cases are selected for treatment and others are inadequately supervised.

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Etienne Bacrot moves closer to becoming the youngest grandmaster at the tournament in Enghien-les-Bains

## Chess boy becomes grandmaster at 14

A FRENCH boy aged 14 could soon be a millionaire after becoming the world's youngest chess grandmaster at the weekend (Raymond Keene writes). Etienne Bacrot, who achieved his result in the international tournament at Enghien-les-Bains in France, is likely to be courted by computer manufacturers seeking his endorsement.

ment of their products. He is, however, one of the few experts who does not rely on computer analysis to support his efforts. And, unlike many prodigies, he is not accompanied by pushy parents. In the final round he needed only a draw to take the title. He won with black in 41 moves, ex-

ceeding his requirements by half a point. His age of fourteen years and two months beat the previous record, held by the Hungarian Peter Leko, who became a grandmaster at fourteen years, four months and 22 days. Previous holders include Bobby Fischer.

Keene on Chess, page 38

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**COMPAQ**

Security crackdown in key towns as Hamas guerrillas threaten further wave of attacks

# Israel pulls back from complete break in talks

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN EMERGENCY session of Israel's security Cabinet decided last night against suspension of all talks with the Palestinians and instead demanded that the Palestinian Authority fulfil its obligations to "fight terrorism as an essential step for continuing the political process".

The decision was taken in the face of opposition by some hawkish ministers, who had demanded a complete cessation of contacts in response to the claim that Yasser Arafat gave the "green light" for the start of a new campaign of suicide attacks.

Last Friday's explosion in a Tel Aviv cafe, in which three people were killed and 40 hurt, was the first of its kind since Yitzhak Rabin, Netanyahu's predecessor, came to power promising Israel's "peace with security".

Mr Netanyahu's communications director, David Barillan, said that for now talks would continue only on issues directly related to preventing terrorism ... until there is satisfaction on the security level".

Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, yesterday threatened more suicide attacks such as the one in Tel Aviv, and denied that Mr Arafat would be able to crack down on its activities as it claimed to have an organisational

structure in place and ready to strike against Jewish targets based outside the areas under his control.

Mr Netanyahu said after the meeting in Tel Aviv, a city surrounded by new Israeli roadblocks designed to try to thwart the Islamic bombers: "I am not suspending talks because our people are meeting their people, but the first item on the agenda is the fulfilment of the Palestinian obligation to fight terrorism. They have to start complying

**We do not need much effort to prove the truthfulness of our threat to teach Netanyahu a lesson**

with that, or else we cannot move."

The Palestinians shrugged off the Israeli threats, claiming that negotiations were already in deadlock. They blamed Israel's decision last Tuesday to defy world opinion and send the bulldozers to begin building at Har Homa, a new settlement for 32,000 Jews on land annexed by Israel after its conquest from Jordan in the 1967 war.

The Hamas statement, treated as authentic and signed "Iz el-Deen, al-Qassam" in Hebron, stone-throwing

Brigades, Hamas Movement Military Branch, Jerusalem-Occupied Palestine", went on in response to Mr Netanyahu's public pledge to continue with Har Homa despite Friday's bomb: "We do not need much effort to prove our truthfulness and the seriousness of our threats ... to teach the arrogant Netanyahu a lesson he will not forget for days and years."

Friday's suicide bomber came from a West Bank village still under Israeli mili-

As the settlers celebrated the Jewish festival of Purim in a bizarre carnival atmosphere enhanced by wigs and fancy dress, Palestinians living in the area still under Israeli control were under curfew and Palestinian police formed a human chain in an attempt to keep angry protesters from trying to storm the Jewish properties from the 80 per cent of the city now back in Arab control.

The spiral of bloodshed provoked by Har Homa has, according to travel agents, dealt a severe blow to Easter tourism. At least one tourist bus has been stoned in Bethlehem.

Yesterday morning two Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli border guards at a roadblock between Bethlehem and Jerusalem after a dispute over identity cards.



A Palestinian uses a catapult to hurl stones towards Israeli soldiers in Hebron

## Hamas fighter broke mould of typical suicide bomber

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AS THE three women victims of last week's Tel Aviv bomb were buried yesterday, Israeli security experts were studying details about the suicide attacker who blew himself up after selecting a table in the most crowded part of a cafe.

Unlike the conventional profile of Islamic terror group bombers — single, unemployed Palestinian men in their late teens or early twenties — Moussa Abu Delyah Ghneimat was 28, married with four young children and had regularly worked in the kitchens at restaurants in Israel, including two in Rishon Lezion, home of Israel's wine industry.

"The fact that he had four kids of

his own and must have known that his bomb was going to blow up a mother and baby sitting in a pram near him makes the attack all the more chilling," said one Jerusalem housewife.

The yellow duffel bag he was carrying contained explosives and nails. The bomb killed Anna Rosen-Winter, 32, a lawyer and mother of the six-month baby, Shani, whose picture, dressed in a Purim clown's costume, appeared on front pages throughout the world. Michal Avrami, 32, a doctor who was four months pregnant with her first child, also died in the blast.

Security sources admitted that the identity of the attacker had made the task of pinpointing potential suicide bombers more difficult.

"Restaurant workers do not remember him talking politics. There

was no sign he had any political interest," said a lawyer for one of the two restaurant owners released on £5,000 bail after being arrested for employing the Palestinian without work permits.

"He had been an employee and had worked at several places in Tel Aviv and other places in the centre of the country," said Yaakov Perry, former head of the Shin Bet internal security service. Mr Perry added: "From what I understand he aroused the attention of the manager of the Apropos cafe because he was wearing a long coat even though it was 26C (78F) and most people were in shirt sleeves." However, he would have detonated the bomb if approached, so there was no way to prevent the attack.

Rishon Lezion police arrested 23 illegal Palestinian workers over the weekend who were working in four restaurants, where they are favoured by employers because they accept low wages and are hard workers. The Tel Aviv daily, *Haaretz*, reported that all the owners — who were also arrested — had allowed the Arabs to sleep on the premises "even after the Tel Aviv attack".

In a statement Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, believed to have at least 100 more volunteers suicide bombers said: "[Binjamin] Netanyahu has to realise that the failure to change his current settlement policies will lead to an explosive situation and a crisis in the entire region."

Islam told of duty to rescue Jerusalem

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN  
IN ISLAMABAD

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, warned Israel that its hardline position on the construction of Jewish settlements in Arab east Jerusalem and the latest housing development in the area could lead to the total collapse of the Middle East peace process.

At the same time he made an emotional appeal to Muslim countries to rescue Jerusalem from "Zionist clutches", adding: "It is a religious duty of all Muslims to act to save Islam's holy place from the danger of Judaisation."

Mr Arafat, who was addressing an extraordinary summit meeting of the 54 members of the Organisation of Islamic Countries, said that Israel's latest move had taken the peace process down a dead end. The one-day meeting ended late yesterday after adopting a declaration supporting the claims of the Palestinians on Jerusalem. Among the Islamic leaders attending the conference were President Rafsanjani of Iran, President Erdogan of Turkey, and Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

Mr Arafat said that time was fast running out for peace. "Israeli plans to establish Jewish settlements in east Jerusalem are a flagrant violation of the peace agreement brokered by Washington."

In a scathing attack on America he said that it was unfortunate that Washington had been supporting Israel's illegal action.

Farouq Kaddumi, a close associate of Mr Arafat, declared that last week's suicide bombing was a normal reaction to the provocative policies of the Israeli Government. "When a cat is driven to the wall, it is natural for her to attack," he said.

Mr Kaddumi, a former spokesman for Mr Arafat on foreign affairs, rejected the charge made by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that the bombing took place on the instructions of Mr Arafat. "That is a blatant lie," he told journalists after the conference.

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# Diplomatic dilemmas await Gore in Beijing

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AL GORE, the American Vice-President, will need to step gingerly when he sets foot in Beijing today for four days of talks.

A year in the planning, the visit had once been envisaged as a showcase for Mr Gore to show off his skills as a world statesman as just one of his qualifications to succeed Bill Clinton in 2000. But that was before America's China policy was sabotaged by the campaign financing row, with allegations that China funnelled money into last year's election through proxy donors to try to influence the Administration and members of Congress.

Although China has denied the charges as slanderous, Chinese officials are under investigation by the FBI, making Mr Gore's task more complicated. After some dithering among his aides, he has decided to broach the subject with Chinese leaders, but in a non-accusatory way, he said. Mr Gore's own legally dubious role adds to the delicacy of his position — he made telephone solicitations from the White House and attended a fundraising event at a Buddhist temple.

He is also in a quandary over the chance to seal a lucrative deal for the sale of Boeing 777s to China. The contract would be a victory for the American aircraft manufacturer over Europe's Airbus Industrie and would protect hundreds of jobs at Boeing's factories in Seattle.

At one time the Administration banged the drum loudly for American business in China, but that commercial diplomacy is muted now. White House officials fear any gestures that could be interpreted as paybacks for Chinese cam-

## Tall Ships prepare for battle in Pacific

FROM CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG

IMAGES of clipper races, nostalgia of Empire and romance of sail combined in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour this weekend with the arrival of 33 gracious vessels which will take part in the first Tall Ships race in the northern Pacific.

The magnificent old craft will set sail for Osaka on Good Friday after a two-day regatta in the Fragrant Harbour. Competitors from as far afield as Poland, Mexico and Colombia are taking part in the 1,450-mile voyage. The biggest ship taking part is the *Dar Modziew* from Poland, which is 354 ft long, and the 294 ft *Cuauhtemoc* from Mexico.

"When the ships leave it will be the most phenomenal sight. They will head off to the east, so there will be the mainland of Kowloon on one side and the Peak on Hong Kong island on the other. With the ships fully rigged, it will be terrific," said Ian Dale, director of Hong Kong's Marine Department.

The journey comprises two racing stages from Hong Kong to Okinawa and Kagoshima to Osaka, and a cruise-in-company leg of 350 miles from Okinawa to Kagoshima. The biggest ships will sail with up to 200 crew members.

On board *Ji Fung* (Spirit of Revolution), the ship representing Hong Kong, are a lawyer, doctor, administrator, plumber and an air-traffic controller who, according to the captain, Greg Tonnison, know basically nothing about sailing. "We are all in the same boat. Of course, we don't want it to sink," said Sung Woe-min, 25, a graphic designer.

Sailing may be the oldest form of locomotion, but the sextant will play only a decorative role in this trip. The captains are relying on the latest gadgetry — global positioning system navigation and radar.

The sight of the ships harks back to the 1860s when there was a clipper race from Canton, and later Fuzhou, China's principal tea port, to London each year. British tea merchants paid an extra £2 per tonne for tea for the first trader to arrive from China.



A wax model of the Dalai Lama is adjusted by a member of Madame Tussaud's at a travel fair in Bombay

## Dalai Lama hopes to make deal with Chinese on Tibet

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

THE Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, said yesterday at the start of a visit to Taiwan that he was optimistic of reaching an agreement with Beijing about autonomy for his country.

He said he had informed the Chinese about his Taiwan trip and the response had been less harsh than he expected.

The Dalai Lama was showered with praise on arrival, but Beijing warned the Taiwanese Government that the exiled leader is "a criminal splitter".

Thousands of monks, nuns, Tibetan refugees and ordinary Buddhists mobbed him when he visited the Fuguan Shan temple, where amid the beating of drums and bells he was escorted by one of his hosts in Taiwan, Master Xing Yuan, the temple's founder. Once inside, speaking in Tibetan and occasionally Chinese, the Dalai Lama led prayers for peace.

Although he described the purpose of his six-day visit to Taiwan, his first, as promoting "basic human values and

religious harmony", the visit has been denounced in Beijing by the official People's Daily as the "Taiwan authorities and the Dalai Lama clique colluding and using each other, consorting with evildoers, going further down the road of splitting China".

The Dalai Lama is looking forward to meeting President Lee Teng-hui. The meeting will probably be in a guest house rather than in Mr Lee's office, to reduce the impression of a state welcome.

On Taiwan, Tibet is officially claimed as a part of China of which Taipei insists it is the legitimate government. The official position is represented by the Government's Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs Office, and there are Tibetan representatives in Taiwan's parliament.

The Council is sometimes accused of funding rival groups of Tibetans who do not respect the Dalai Lama. It denies this and says much of its money is spent on helping occupational training schemes for Tibetan refugees living in India.

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## TODAY IN THE TIMES GREAT



### SUPERMAN MBE

Martin Offiah's double life in rugby  
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Paula Radcliffe runs into the medals in Turin  
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## SEASON OF SPORT



### SIX APPEAL

Italy make the case for European union  
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### TEE OFF

Junior tour attracts huge entry  
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# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 24 1997

## DOCTOR'S ORDERS GIVE HODDLE A HEADACHE



## Sick notes claim fantasy first eleven

By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

OPERATION England versus Mexico at Wembley on Saturday is beginning to resemble the farce of *Carry On Doctor*. Already a complete and recognisable England XI has been withdrawn from the fixture and, yesterday, as the dance between Alex Ferguson and the England coach, Glenn Hoddle, took more twists and turns than any of the wounded players should be asked to attempt this week, it looked curiously close to compromising on the ethics of club versus country.

On Saturday Ferguson had decreed that three of his players, Gary Neville, Gary Pallister and David Beckham, would not subject themselves to the new England rule that, in case players are malingering or being held by their clubs for reasons other than genuine medical infirmity, they must travel down to Bisham Abbey and have their various ailments put under

the rule of Dr John Crane. "They will not be going down to join England," insisted Ferguson. "They will remain under our care."

Hoddle will also be watching the match at Highbury between Arsenal and Liverpool tonight with some anxiety. Seven of his squad will be on show: David James, Dominic Matteo, Jamie Redknapp, Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman for Liverpool and Tony Adams and Martin Keown for Arsenal. Hoddle can ill afford any more withdrawals.

In a further development, David Seaman could return for Arsenal after a six-match absence following a knee operation. His recovery came too late for inclusion in Hoddle's squad.

At least David Batty and Robert Lee, who played in Newcastle United's 1-1 draw with Wimbledon at Selhurst Park yesterday afternoon, and Paul Ince, who played for Inter Milan in their 2-1 victory over Parma, were expected to report fit for duty.

Steve Bruce, whom many believed to have been the best defender never to have played for his country.

The overcrowding of the fixture list, the dire need of clubs to try to nurse players through the crush of the last months of the season, clash with England's desire to fill a blank Saturday with, in essence, a training match.

The day is open for such a game because players from 11 countries are absent from their Premiership clubs for World Cup qualifying matches. Wales play Belgium this weekend. Northern Ireland are at home to Portugal, and

Ireland take their English league players to Macedonia.

The problem is global. At a medical symposium held by Uefa, football's European governing body, in Italy earlier this month, 70 sports doctors agreed that footballers are being submitted to almost intolerable loads. Uefa, with its own expanded Champions' League, contributes to that problem, as does Fifa, the world governing body, whose World Cup qualifying games have burgeoned to more than

400 between competing nations and who have, putting politics before the quality of the need for rest among performers, now contrived to have 36 nations in the finals in France in 1998.

Can we wonder that, when the Football Association seeks to inflict high and mighty medical rules on the clubs, rather than offer consultation and co-operation, the likes of Manchester United are inclined to rebel. Ferguson can justifiably claim that his club is on the threshold of doing more to restore England's reputation abroad than the national team.

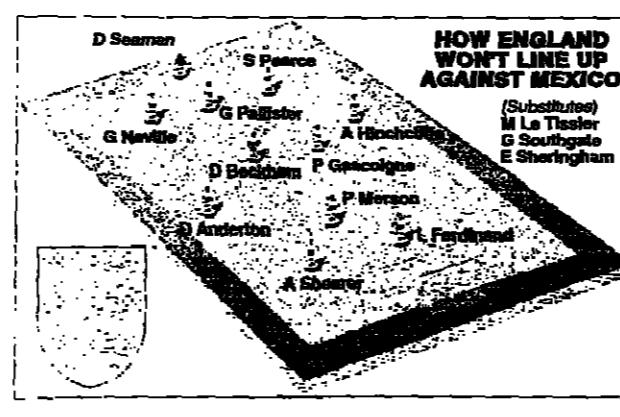
The same, in reverse, applies to Southampton. They stand timorously on the brink of relegation. Matthew le Tissier is the man whose goals have saved them in the past. So, when Graeme Souness, the manager seeking to keep the South Coast club afloat in the Premiership on gates of 15,000, clashes swords with Hoddle, there should be some understanding.

Le Tissier, claim Southampton, has foot and groin injuries. It sounds like a new epidemic. But should le Tissier be pressed into service and then exacerbate his injuries, Southampton might lose him for the season and be relegated. We might well then see a High Court claim for a portion of the £15 million loss that Premiership status is estimated to bring.

To the team above, one might add Gareth Southgate, Teddy Sheringham and Tony Adams, who are all likely to attend Dr Crane's surgery, sicknotes in hand.

Hoddle's need for a work-out, for an England team bearing some resemblance to an authentic unit for World Cup matches to come, runs contrary to the club campaigns.

Hoddle is a man of faith, indeed he has indulged in faith healing to cure injuries of his own. But where money, ethics, and the growth of fixtures collide, not even a faith healer can solve the insoluble.



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# World Cup finds ITV at sixes and sevens

There's a lot of the amber nectar going down in those stands. Of course there was, this was the Rugby World Cup sevens in Hong Kong, but this was still a notable remark for at least two reasons.

First, because it was possibly the first banal, rugby cliché uttered by Nick Farr-Jones, a man whose eloquent contributions to the BBC's five nations' championship coverage — all drift defence and gain lines — are limited only by the minor handicap of having been born an Australian. Second, because he was making the comments on Eurosport, the pan-European satellite channel.

Signing up Farr-Jones signalled the seriousness of the satellite channel's intent to provide a real alternative to the rather half-hearted cover-

age being provided by ITV, the terrestrial rights-holder. By the time ITV's live coverage got properly underway yesterday morning (on Friday it settled for late-night highlights while on Saturday, extended highlights went out — more understandably — against *Grandstand*) the Eurosport trio of Mike Wedderburn, Paul Dickenson and Farr-Jones were into their third morning of mixing up live and delayed coverage.

And very enjoyable it was too, although it was a shame that having signed up such a relaxed and knowledgeable team of commentators, little thought seemed to have gone into making the on-screen pictures look good. Eurosport's own graphics were messily superimposed on top of those provided by the host broadcaster and, more seri-



MATTHEW BOND  
TV ACTION REPLAY

ously, play (even of the recorded and presumably timetable) was regularly lost to advertising breaks.

Given the marathons nature of the Eurosport commentary effort, it seems churlish to focus on the occasional slip. But one fell so painfully into the "there but for the grace of God..." category that it will stay in the memories of those who heard it forever.

Saturday morning, South Africa were playing Hong Kong. The cameras had lingered on South Africa's rain-

bow-shirted supporters and Farr-Jones had gone into full white liberal, isn't it good for South Africa, isn't it good for rugby mode. Ten seconds later he very confidently mis-identified one of the two black players then on the field for the Springbok seven. The silence that followed was short but significant.

"Actually Nick..." began Wedderburn, who — as Harlequin fans will know, but Eurosport viewers may not — is black. The silence that followed that gentle correction

was a little longer, far more painful and only really ended when Wedderburn himself (deliberately or accidentally, who knows?) made exactly the same mistake himself.

ITV's problems, meanwhile, were of a different sort. While the Eurosport team were commentating off monitors in Paris, ITV — very properly — were on site with the better elements of their 15-side World Cup team. John Taylor teamed up with Steve Smith to their customary good effect, while Bob Simmons partnered Jonah Lomu — a tad less successfully.

The real problems, however (apart from England being knocked out before either broadcaster was on air) started when Lomu returned to the presentation studio and Jim Rosenthal.

Rosenthal was unrecog-

nizable from the man who made such a professional job of the Australian Grand Prix two weeks ago. He was completely in awe of Lomu, unable to string together anything resembling a coherent question.

But if you thought that exchange was painful, you really had to hear the interview with Mrs and Mrs Lomu conducted by a female "reporter" whose name I did not catch. Displaying a technique that made Louise Goodman, ITV's new pit-lane reporter, look like Jeremy Paxman, the Lomus were asked the sort of books they enjoyed reading, whether they planned to have any children in the future and — having been firmly rebuffed on that point — whether they had any plans at all?

Thank heavens the final was good.

GOLF: SPANIARD WINS IN STYLE ON HOME SOIL TO COMPLETE LONG WALK BACK TO UPPER REACHES OF SPORT

## Olazabal's feat underlines quality of return

FROM MEL WEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

**AN ODYSSEY** of misery and pain so severe that at one time he must have wondered if he would ever hit a golf ball in anger again ended in exultation for José María Olazabal yesterday when he capped a tumultuous return to the game by winning on only his third comeback appearance.

Olazabal, 31, took the Turespasia Masters and nearly £62,000 here at Maspalomas with a final, flawless round of 67 and a total of 272, 20 under par. He took the title by two strokes from Lee Westwood, with Paul Broadhurst and Eduardo Romero a further shot back. The Englishmen and the Argentinian played fine golf in the sun-soaked Canary Islands, but for the sake of the PGA European Tour, for the Royal and Ancient game as a whole, but, most of all, for Olazabal himself, it was a day for undulited celebration.

Nobody could have guessed when the Spaniard won the Volvo PGA Championship in May, 1994, that it would be 34 months before he would again walk into the winner's circle with that characteristic flat-footed gait of his. It had been his feet, indeed, that had kept him out of tournament golf for those long months and years of inactivity, doubt and agony. The rest of the golfing world can guess, but only he knows

what this performance means to him.

He gave the barest clue to the depth of his despair and the height of his joy in a press conference that was tinged with tears and emotion. "When the moment came when I knew I was going to win, many thoughts came to my mind," he said. "I thought of the heartbreaking times when I thought I would not be able to play again. I never

surge of goodwill flowed in his direction from the four winds last night.

It seems hardly conceivable that Olazabal could possibly become this competitive this soon after returning to the game in the Dubai Desert Classic last month. He was twelfth there, and his performance was enough for him to be named player of the month. If only the members of the Fourth Estate who voted for him then had known what was to come. Surely, they need do more than play a reprise of their debate when they deliberate on the award for March.

Olazabal has been playing his prospects in a minor key this last month, even after finishing fourth in the Portuguese Open last week. He was not comfortable over the ball, he said repeatedly, he was still suffering with his feet, he was not happy off the tee, he needed to become more consistent before he could even begin to think of winning. He was, perhaps, right; he had, literally, to walk before he could think of breaking into a trot, let alone run.

In spite of his protestations, it had been obvious since that performance in Dubai that he had timed his return almost to perfection. He did not want to come back before he could be a contender, his pride would not allow him to do that. How effective he was is now clear — it has taken him only 216 holes of golf to achieve his sixteenth PGA European Tour victory.

Olazabal started the day two strokes behind Westwood and José Caceres, but he led the field after playing only four holes, two of which he birdied, while Westwood dropped a shot when he hit his second shot into a palm tree at the 4th. This, if ever there was one, was the defining moment of this last round. It was the first time Olazabal had led since his return and he was never again to be headed.

Olazabal picked up a further shot at the 6th with a 25-foot putt. What put him two ahead of the field. Two more birdies coming home completed a faultless round of six birdies.

He may not be in perfect shape yet; he insists he is not. With the US Masters only three weeks off, he has to sharpen his game off the tee, and he recognises the fact. For the moment, this was good enough. It was victory; and victory, when the alternative only last summer might have been a wheelchair, was pre-cious indeed.

"It might easily have been a 6," Westwood said. "I had a few puts lip out, but this has made me feel much better."

Colin Montgomerie went into the last round four shots behind a little-known American, Omar Uresti, who was 11 under par and a stroke ahead of the field.

"I tried out a new driver with a different shaft and suddenly I was hitting the ball straight again," Woosnam said. "I had also been hooking my irons, but I seem to have solved that problem."

## Woosnam confident after final flourish

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

**IAN WOOSNAM** regained his form too late to make an impact on the Bay Hill Invitational, but he goes into two big tournaments with renewed heart after a closing round of 68 in Orlando yesterday.

Woosnam, whose hopes of a third win on the US Tour were destroyed by a third round of 76, collected five birdies with the help of a new driver as he finished with a total of 237, one under par.

He plays next in this week's Players' Championship and will then spend a week at his holiday home in Barbados before heading for the Masters at Augusta, where he triumphed in 1991.

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TENNIS: EARLY DEFEAT FOR BRITAIN'S NO 1 SUGGESTS PROLONGED REST MAY BE NEEDED TO CURE PERSISTENT INJURY

## Davis Cup prospects hang on Henman's elbow

FROM ALIX RAMSAY  
IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

**TIM HENMAN** is leaving Florida rather earlier than expected, taking with him many of Great Britain's hopes of progressing in the Davis Cup. On Saturday he was beaten in the second round of the Lipton championships by Julian Alonso, another of Spain's armada of promising newcomers, 7-6, 6-2, 6-3.

It was Henman's first match since the end of February and proved that the elbow injury that he has been protecting for the past fortnight is still nowhere near cured.

Quite what is wrong with Henman's elbow remains unclear. Bill Norris, the ATP Tour trainer, described it as "a slight degenerative problem. The elbow is put together in

a strange way", but Norris seems confident that "we'll get him right".

Henman, on the other hand, describes the cause of the problem as "a loose body" within the joint that has flared up sporadically since he was 11 years old.

"Last time it happened, I rested for three weeks and then I was able to start playing again," Henman said. "If that's the case, it doesn't bode well for the Davis Cup. But I think, if I were playing any other tournament next week, then I wouldn't play. But I regard the Davis Cup differently. I'm desperately keen to play."

The immediate plan is to return to England and see what happens. But David Felgate, Henman's coach, seems less than impressed with the idea. Normally Henman and Felgate think and act in tandem, but this time

he wants Henman to listen to his advice. "In my mind it would be an easy decision," he said.

"I don't think I should play until Tokyo, which would give him 3½ weeks' rest. He has to think of his career and not play for his country. Going out there half-cock and losing

is bad for his morale and doesn't do any good for his ranking, and it lets other people think they can beat him."

"Playing the way he was forced to play against Alonso won't do anyone any good in the Davis Cup. His career must come first. This kid, with no experience, has worked out that Tim has a problem. What is some-

body with Byron Black's experience and game going to make of it all?"

Alonso, still only 19, with a big first service, a considerable amount of muscle and very few nerves, made Henman look very average on Saturday. He had never won a match on the tour at this level until this week and now he finds himself in the third round. Not bad for a man who only took up tennis as a child in order to lose some weight.

Rather more worryingly for Henman, he was unable to serve flat out and, once he realised he could not impose his game on Alonso, he seemed to lose the will to fight. "It probably wasn't the smartest thing to do, to play today," he said.

With Greg Rusedski still plagued by a wrist injury, David Lloyd's list of walking wounded is growing at an

alarming rate. The fanfares and hurrahs surrounding the much publicised resurgence of British tennis could well be silenced come next week, when the Lawn Tennis Association's new model army is shown to be two strong and neither of them are available to play.

Still, such problems are not restricted to British shores. Boris Becker withdrew from the tournament on Saturday without hitting a ball having decided that his wrist still was not strong enough to risk in a match. As for Andre Agassi, he would be happy if his career could reach the dizzy heights of the drums having lost miserably to Scott Draper, from Australia, 7-6, 6-1. The former world No 1 has now failed to win a set, much less a match, in his past four tournaments.

## Macree goes close to springing a surprise

**REBECCA MACREE** from Essex, the England No 2, gave Michelle Martin, the world No 2, from Australia a scare before Martin emerged victorious over five sets in the final of the Cup Olympics women's squash tournament in Antwerp. Macree, 25, lost the opening game 9-11, but then moved into the lead by taking the next two, 10-9, 9-5. Martin, in her last tournament before defending her British Open title, regained her composure, however, to secure victory by taking the last two games, 9-2, 9-3.

Jonathon Power, 22, of Canada, recorded his fourth successive win on the Professional Squash Association world tour in Budapest yesterday when he defeated Peter Nicol of Scotland, 15-11, 15-11, 15-15 in the final of the Hungarian Open championship.

## Barsby builds big lead

**CRICKET: Trevor Barsby** defied illness to score a century as Queensland tightened their grip on the Sheffield Shield final in Perth yesterday. Barsby, playing in his hundredth and last Shield match, had an upset stomach before taking the wicket of Brett Mulder for Western Australia to be all out for 165. Queensland must win the five-day match to capture the Shield title while Western Australia need only avoid defeat because of their higher end-of-season finish.

## Leander retain title

**ROWING: Leander**, with Steve Redgrave, right, at No 7 and Matthew Pinsent at stroke, retained the Head of the River title on Saturday, but their winning margin was not as great as many people had expected. They completed the Mortlake to Putney course in 17min 28sec to win by 7sec from London University, with London 1 third, a further 4sec adrift.



## Morgan secures victory

**BOWLS: Russell Morgan**, from the East Dorset club in Christchurch, won the Warners all-England champion of champions singles title at Bembridge, on the Isle of Wight, yesterday, beating Paul Bennett, of Bodmin, 21-6, in a disappointingly one-sided final. Bennett was never in the hunt, as Morgan motored into a 15-1 lead after eight ends and was 20-4 ahead after 13.

## Hayles still unbeaten

**CYCLING: Rob Hayles** remains unbeaten in the Ambrusso Premier Calender 16-race series thanks to another success in the 100-kilometre event at the Eastway circuit, in London, on Saturday. A dangerous-looking group of ten escaped after 13 kilometres before Hayles closed the gap, built a ten-second lead of his own and then held off a spirited challenge from John Tammer on the final bend.

## Dark Blue triumph

**GOLF: Oxford** continued their impressive run of victories in the University match with a comfortable weekend victory over Cambridge at Royal St George's, Sandwich. Having won the foursomes by 3½-1½, Oxford took the singles by 7½-2½. James Fletcher and Omar Manki, the captain, were the only singles winners for Cambridge, who went down to their sixth successive defeat.

## Fast start for McRae

**MOTOR RALLYING: Colin McRae**, of Great Britain, right, and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, shared the lead in the Portuguese rally after the opening stage yesterday. Both drivers were timed at 1min 3sec over prologue reduced to 1.7 kilometres after claims that the full course was dangerous. McRae, driving a Subaru, leads the world champion after three rounds.



## Champion disqualified

**BOXING: Roy Jones** lost his World Boxing Council lightweight title on Friday when he was disqualified for hitting Montell Griffin while he was kneeling at Atlantic City, New Jersey. It was Jones's first loss in 34 bouts. Jones had put Griffin down in the ninth round and then hit him twice when he got to a knee. Tony Perez, the referee, then counted Griffin out, but he was later awarded the bout.

## Browne takes over

**CRICKET: Jimmy Adams** and Junior Murray have been dropped by West Indies for the third Test against India at the Kensington Oval, starting on Thursday. Courtney Browne will take over from Murray behind the stumps. Ian Bishop, who pulled out of the second Test because of injury, has also been included. Mervyn Dillon, who replaced Bishop, keeps his place in the 13-man squad.

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Judges put technical competence before artistry in world championships

# Lipinski leaves behind hollow impression

FROM SIMON BARNES IN LAUSANNE

THE Frenchwoman chose the circus as her theme, and skated the big top with all she possessed. But the American skated the freak show from the fairground next door and stole the judge's hearts.

The name of the geek is Tara Lipinski, 14, going on 10. On Saturday they crowned a prepubescent little girl as women's world champion figure skater. She stood on the podium, grinning goofily — "I'm still in shark," she kept saying unendearingly — all 4ft 8in and 52lb of her.

Odd sight: the medal podium, naturally, was in three stages, but all three heads were more or less on a level. It was, perhaps, the crowning absurdity of a peculiar but entralling afternoon.

Sport is a bitch goddess, we all know that. But if you seek the real viciousness of caprice, then ice skating is the queen of them all. This is a *fact of life* in all the subjectively judged sports, from dressage to trampolining, but skating has a killer factor that no other sport can rival.

This is "artistic impression". Well, I don't know much about art, but I know a damn sight more than any skating judge, at least on Saturday's evidence. Michelle Kwan, the American who finished second, might well be thinking the same thing.

Kwan was the defending champion. She is now 16, and has trained on from last year. Precocious talent has been transmuted into grace. No longer a little girl, she is at least half a woman and certainly all teenager. She has learnt a good deal about art and a lot about worry. In a year, she has learnt self-doubt, as any angriously teenager must.

But not Lipinski. She has yet to reach such a stage in her life. She skated like a whirling automaton. She is stunningly competent; there is not an ounce of dispute in that matter. But then she has a huge advantage: the alliance of her precocious talent and her freakish size.

It is this combination that allows her to spin with such extraordinary rapidity. For that reason, there is no call for her to jump terribly high. In fact, when she performs a triple, you would still find it difficult to slide the *Journal de Genève* beneath her skates.

Her tininess also makes her landings much safer. The heavier you are, the greater your momentum and the further you skid. Skating is always a sport that favours the compactly built, but this is ridiculous.

With most things in sport, there is a trade-off. Every advantage is also a disadvantage. The super-tall goal-



**'Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet'**

may be able to play *The Goldberg Variations*, but that does not make him Glenn Gould.

And that is Lipinski for you: she is just playing the notes. Terribly well. Dazzlingly well. But, for the moment, she is just the skating equivalent of a human pianola. Doubtless she has a soul, equally certainly she has not located it yet. Or even started looking.

That is what is so endearing about Kwan. There is no more earnest seeker in the world than the teenager in search of her soul. I mean, like, what is the meaning of life? No thoughts on that matter, or on any other, from Lipinski. She was still in shark.

Kwan was in fourth place going into the free programme and knew that she would have to skate as she has never skated before to win. She had undergone a nightmare of tumbles in the United States national championships, and began

keeper has a huge advantage on crosses, but is vulnerable to the short-range grubber. The massive ball-winning rugby forward has no speed. And so on.

In skating, the very short skater has the advantages mentioned, but can never look truly elegant. With Lipinski, the trade-off of her virtuosity is in grace; if you like. And yet she was not penalised for this. The judges funked it.

Infant prodigies are an uncomfortable phenomenon. You find them in chess, mathematics and music something to do with pattern recognition. Perhaps these freaks are most worrying in music. A child

her short programme here with another fall. Angst had undone her. Begone dull care. So she thought about, like, life, you know, and death. She thought of Scott Hamilton, the great American skater who has just been diagnosed as suffering from testicular cancer. "I realised I'd been focused on the wrong thing," Kwan said. "I mean, compared to that, we're lucky just to be here. And we're here to have fun."

And so Kwan skated as if in a dream of beauty, and it was four minutes of pure loveliness, for, despite all the nonsense, this is a lovely sport. And the judges responded as judges should and awarded her their best marks. And so Kwan won the free programme, skate blade clasped in her hand above her head.

The final result in skating all come down to the comparative placings of the panel of judges. The last skater was Irina Slutskaya, of Russia, who put up a magnificently dramatic performance, ending up with a showy double Biellman spin, skate blade clasped in her hand above her head.

Inexplicably, the judges were unmoved, and Slutskaya finished fourth. This added complication was enough to keep Kwan in second place overall, to philosophise on such matters as life and death, and heat and kitchens.

The anomaly of it all was the extraordinarily high marks that Lipinski received for artistic impression. It was as if the judges believed that someone so technically gifted must be an artist. And it is not true at all. It is as if they thought the *Venus de Milo* was much the same thing as a Barbie doll. The judges acceded to the wishes of the American corporate hunger for teeny heroines.

Thus they have brought discredit upon their sport and insulted its participants. Why have marks for artistic impression in the first place, if you don't use them to discriminate between artist and freak?

But Kwan knows that, for all this, she had her destiny in her hands, and she let it slip in that initial fall. The jumps are what puts skating into the arena of sporting chance, and you either land them or you don't. Her recovery, though doomed to ultimate failure, was a noble thing. "It's a wonderful feeling," she said, "learning to fly again."

The Winter Olympics are just 11 months away, and Lipinski, aka "the Robotic Shrimp", is now in pole position. No doubt she will be a millionairess by the time the torch is lit in Japan. She might even have started to look for her soul. It is time that her sport did the same thing.



Lipinski in action during her free programme, which lacked the grace shown by Kwan, her rival

## BOXING

### Brodie can aim high after defeat of Swain

BY SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL BRODIE proved himself one of the most exciting prospects in Great Britain on Saturday. Brodie, 22, from Manchester, was only just beginning to come out of the six-round stage when he found himself facing Neil Swain, of Wales, the Commonwealth champion and one of the toughest men in the British super-bantamweight division, at the Wythenshawe Forum.

Although Brodie has a punch to get himself out of trouble and is a gifted boxer, it was thought that the decision to go for the vacant British title might have been made too early. Even Jack Trickett, his manager, wanted to have a few more bouts before taking on Swain.

Sure enough, Brodie found himself in a brutal encounter that must be a contender for bout of the year. It ended in the tenth with Brodie pulling out a right that knocked out Swain. He was out for a good two minutes and ring officials were beginning to get concerned when he suddenly recovered. Brodie, too, received his share of lumps and bumps, and twice almost got into serious trouble.

Anyone without genuine potential would not have been able to withstand the violence that Swain unleashed on the youngster from the first bell and the unrelenting pace at which the bout was contested. Brodie is definitely one to watch. With judicious match-making and clever promotion, he could go all the way.

Trickett said: "That was a very hard fight that wants some getting over. I did not want to take it until he had had a couple of eight or ten-rounders first."

Trickett now expects Brodie to defend his British title to try to win a Lonsdale Belt outright, and perhaps challenge for the European title if a suitable opening presents itself.

## ATHLETICS: BRITISH DISTANCE RUNNER PREVENTS AFRICAN CLEAN SWEEP IN WORLD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Radcliffe provides Europe with silver lining

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN TURIN

AMID the customary African dominance of the world cross country championships, Paula Radcliffe, from Bedford, struck a small blow for Europe here yesterday when she took the silver medal in the senior women's race. Briefly, it looked as though Radcliffe would win, but Derartu Tulu, from Ethiopia, stole past her in the finishing sprint to regain the title lost last season when a shoe came off.

Radcliffe, 23, was well-positioned throughout and, with a kilometre of the 6,700 metres to run, was one of five in contention. The others were Tulu and her countrywoman, Gete Wami. Sally Bensuson, from Kenya, and Julia Vaquerro, from Spain. Wami was first to break, but Radcliffe responded and hit the front 400 metres out.

However, with less than 100 metres to run, Tulu picked up her speed and Radcliffe, though she did not slow, was unable to raise hers. "I knew I had Wami beaten, but I did not realise Tulu was still there," Radcliffe said. Tulu recorded 20min 53sec, Radcliffe 20min 55sec and Wami 21min 00sec for third.



Radcliffe strides towards her silver medal in Turin

"You always think, after the race, that you might have been able to go a bit quicker, but I was going as hard as I could," Radcliffe said. "The standard is so high, I have to be pleased." It had been a good omen, after all, she concluded, that a pigeon had messaged on her father's head just before the start.

Again, though, it is a story of a British arrow just outside the bullseye. Since Jonathan Edwards won his triple gold medal in Gothenburg in 1995, British athletes have taken 12 silver medals at global championships, but no gold. Perhaps Radcliffe can find the centre at 5,000 metres in Athens this summer. "This gives me something to build on," she said.

Her most notable achievement as a senior until yesterday was breaking Zola Budd's 5,000 metres British record and she is hopeful of improving it further. Eventually, she will move up to 10,000 metres, perhaps experimenting with one this year and racing over the distance at the 1998 Commonwealth Games, but she sees herself mainly as a 5,000 metres runner for a few years.

This was the first time since joining the senior ranks that she had enjoyed preparation unbroken by illness or injury. Eight weeks' good training.

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## EQUESTRIANISM: RECORD NUMBER OF ENTRIES RESTRICTS OVERSEAS RIDERS

### Top horses ruled out of Badminton

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

SEVERAL of the world's top horses will miss the Badminton Horse Trials, the world's leading three-day event in May, after an announcement yesterday that each overseas rider will be allowed to ride only one horse. British riders may ride two.

The ruling follows a record 151 entries for the event. Blyth Tait, of New Zealand, the Olympic champion, and Mark Todd, a dual Olympic gold medal-winner, are among leading riders who will have to choose which of their top horses to run.

Todd, who was competing at the Land-Rover Gatcombe Horse Trials yesterday, where he finished third on Kayem — one of his three Badminton entries — condemned the decision. "If the event wants to be the premier in the world, it should employ a ranking system like any other top sporting event," he said.



Todd: condemned move

"Wimbledon doesn't say that Boris Becker can't play because a British player ranked No 364 has to." Tait, who will have to choose between Chesterfield, a team bronze medal-winner in Atlanta, and Aspasia, the runner-up at the Pratoni event in Italy last year, shared his view. "It will be disappointing for the general public at Badminton who expect to see the best available talent," he said.

"Instead, they will be seeing the best riders with one horse — along with Samantha clip-clop from up the road."

Both riders are also concerned about the effect that the ruling will have on the world rider rankings, which allocates more points for a win at Badminton than other events. "It will give the British who are allowed two horses an unfair advantage," Tait, the leading rider last season, said.

Hugh Thomas, the director of Badminton, admitted that it was "very sad" that a number of qualified horses would be turned away, but said that, with a maximum of 80 starting places, it seemed the fairest decision. "For the future, we have obviously got to work out a different way of doing things," he said.

Meanwhile, Rodney Powell, the winner of Badminton in 1991, had little to complain about at Gatcombe yesterday.

He won the advanced intermediate section after a superb performance on Flintstone, an eight-year-old. Powell, who decided to "go for it" on the cross country, collected just three time faults to finish on a score of 35.

Mary King, on King William, and Todd, on Kayem, both finished on 37, but King was awarded second place because she had more "good" marks in her dressage test.

Andrea Morris, a team gold medal-winner in the 1987 British junior team, had a slender win in the British Equestrian Insurers Brokers open intermediate section on *The Fun Dun*, a nippy little 15.1 hands' mare. Morris now leads the BEIB horse trials series which culminates at Longleat in June.

RESULTS: Advanced intermediate: 1, Flintstone (R Powell, GB) 35.00; 2, King William (M King, GB) 37.00; 3, Kayem (M Todd, NZ) 37. British Equestrian Insurers Brokers open intermediate: 1, *The Fun Dun* (A Morris, GB) 28; 2, Panfield George (L Law, GB) 29; 3, King Solomon (M King, GB) 30.

## SNOOKER

### Morgan holds up Hendry

FROM PHIL YATES IN CO KILDARE

STEPHEN HENDRY surprisingly struggled to shake off Darren Morgan, the title-holder, in the opening session of the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters final at Goffs here yesterday as he established a slender 4-3 advantage.

Hendry, attempting to win his fifth event this season, and improve his already overwhelming record against Morgan to 14 victories from 15 meetings, threatened to dominate as he aggregated 265 points without reply in building a 3-0 lead.

Hendry, successful in ten consecutive finals since being edged 9-8 by Peter Ebdon in the climax to the 1995 Irish Masters, had runs of 116 — his 34th century break of the 1996-97 campaign — and 96 before Morgan dug in his heels.

Fortune smiled on Morgan in the fourth frame when Hendry, leading 30-0, went into

off after potting a red from distance. Morgan capitalised with an 82 clearance and then accounted for the fifth frame with a century break.

Hendry's hopes of lifting his 64th trophy were bolstered by contributions of 41 and 79, which paved the way for a 4-2 lead, but Morgan, whose greatest asset is a stubborn streak, remained in contention by comfortably prevailing in the closing frame of the afternoon.

That left Hendry requiring five of the ten frames scheduled last night to collect the £72,000 first prize and provide additional evidence that, with the Embassy world championship at Sheffield fast approaching, he is still the man to beat.

Hendry ensured his participation in the eightieth final of his 12-year professional career by defeating Ronnie O'Sullivan 6-2 in the semi-

## SKIING

### Britain in danger of missing out on Ormond potential

FROM SIMON WILDE  
IN TIGNES, FRANCE

NOW that Tim Henman has made British tennis respectable, there are precious few sports left to us for self-mockery. So, thank goodness for skiing, we all say. There is a sport that we will never be good at; it is not in our genes to be. Leave it to the French and the Austrians.

Er, wrong. Actually, Great Britain does possess a brilliant teenage skier who could well reach the top. Her name is Sophie Ormond, she is 17 years old and ranked in the world's top ten for her age-group. By all accounts, she is extremely promising. She may be living proof that, biologically, there is still no reason why a Briton cannot be among the best skiers in the world.

That is what those close to the British Alpine team have said for years. Their argument is that skiing is a sport in which competitors are commonly separated by mere fractions of seconds: the difference, say, between one kind of ski and another, or between back-up staff who have enough time to study every twist and turn of a race course and those who do not. With better funding, they say, British skiers can make those fractions disappear.

Here, though, is the rub: because, as the striving to remove those fractions goes on, Ormond may be unwilling to remain British much longer. Ormond, you see, has a choice: although her parents are British, they have long

Results ..... 34

lived on the Continent. She was born in Switzerland and resides near Annecy.

Her genes may be British, but she is, by her own admission, half French. Many of her mannerisms are English, but she speaks in French to her elder brother, James, who also skis for Britain and expects to continue doing so. Sophie is less sure. She has been nurtured by the French ski system since the age of nine and identifies that as the reason why she is as good as she is. She also knows that it can better help her to push for the highest summits.

"I have skied with Britain for the juniors and at the world championships and am grateful for what they have done," she said in Tignes, where she finished overall joint-second in the British Land British championships. "but I cannot get a sponsor and don't know how to go about it. I don't even feel there is anyone who can help me. I have been with them two years and have not found a sponsor in that time, so why should it happen now?"

"I would like to go with Britain, but it would be much easier with the French. They have the coaches, the back-up staff and the training camps. Everything is the best and it is all paid for. With the French, I believe I can make it to the top. My French coach, Michel Boyer, has been really good about it. He just tells me to do the best for myself."

Doing that, though, will almost certainly mean Ormond taking up French citizenship. For the want of proper financial support, Britain's brightest talent for years will slip through the net.

RESULTS: Quarter-final: D Morgan (Wales) b J Parrot (Eng) 6-2. Semi-final: S Ormond (Scot) b R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-2. Final: M Morgan b P Ebdon (Eng) 4-3.



FOOTBALL: COLOMBIAN'S SUBLIME FREE KICK RESCUES POINT FOR IMPOVERISHED NEWCASTLE AT SELHURST PARK

# Asprilla's artistry colours drab spectacle

Wimbledon ..... 1  
Newcastle United ..... 1  
  
By ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

POVERTY comes in many disguises. In the FA Carling Premiership, Newcastle United, as rich as they come, and Wimbledon, who make silk purses out of sow's ears, are both suffering in the final furlong as they try to ensure the Uefa Cup place that they feel their season demands.

Wimbledon had won but once in 11 League matches; Newcastle were on the rebound from defeat in Monaco, where Sir John Hall, their club chairman and paymaster, had reportedly said that his players should be ashamed of themselves.

It showed, on both sides. Wimbledon, with a small squad and playing for the tenth time in 22 days, were



Asprilla elegantly curls a free kick over the leaping Wimbledon wall for the Newcastle equaliser in the second half of the Premiership encounter at Selhurst Park yesterday

weary. Newcastle, without Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand, were shadows of the cavaliers who began the season under Kevin Keegan.

And yet there was one transcendent moment. It came from Faustino Asprilla, who equalised Ovind Leonhardsen's first-half strike in the 52nd minute.

Newcastle had won a free kick just outside the penalty box for a foul on Ginola. It was the position that Shearer so relishes; he would have smashed it with uncompromising British beef past the goalkeeper. Not so Asprilla.

After Elliott had feigned to take the kick, the Colombian sauntered towards the ball and then, caressing it, with just enough power, but almost radar-guided accuracy and swerve, the outwit goalkeeper Neil Sullivan. It was positively graceful; the arc with which Asprilla bent that ball into the Wimbledon net.

How the 7,000 Geordie fans

applauded their imported hero, despite two subsequent failures to head a winner. They had little else to celebrate as the zest and the joy which Keegan had invested in this team was, again squashed at source by his successor as manager, Kenny Dalglish.

When a side defends as poorly as do Newcastle, it seems almost criminal to eschew the virtues of attack. Peter Beardsley had wanted to play, and expected to play. Barely an hour before kick-off he talked, with typical enthusiasm, of Newcastle winning the

championship, though he acknowledged that that would entail winning every game.

And then, poor Peter was consigned to the bench. Newcastle were constrained in the 4-5-1 formation that represents trying to erase the defensive generosity he inherited. One wanted to shout that it goes against the very nature, that next summer — when, doubtless, Dalglish will wheel and deal a new balance — will be the time to make his mark.

As it was, Newcastle were moribund in the first half, and

Wimbledon were poor. True, Ginola produced one long shot, which was flicked over the bar by Sullivan. True, Newcastle was booted at every turn because Cunningham, booked for a late foul on the Frenchman, was outraged by the histrionics of his opponent.

However, few could argue when, in the 28th minute, Wimbledon scored their goal. It typified the inadequacy of the Newcastle defence, and the alertness that Leonhardsen brings at his best.

A free kick had been poorly cleared. Leonhardsen pumped

the ball back in and, when Lee, often Newcastle's most committed player, was challenged by Harford, the ball went spinning to Leonhardsen. From 15 yards, the Norwegian swung his left foot at the ball and, thanks to a late dive from Hislop, the best the goalkeeper could do was help it, one-handed, into the far corner of his goal.

Both Ekoku and Gayle produced deft touches for such swift, counter-attacking strikers. Gayle, who might even be worthy of an England place given the extent of injuries to

others, demonstrated one breathtaking aspect of his touch, hooking the ball gently over the shoulder of Elliott and moving round him to regather it before the defender knew which way to turn. Ekoku too, could turn defenders, indeed, with a flick of the hips, he eluded two of them before crossing the ball for Earle, whose late appearance in the box would have brought the match-winner had Peacock not headed clear from beneath the bar.

Peacock saved another opportunity, but then Peacock is

Peacock, and he gave the ball away to Leonhardsen, whose instant pass offered Holdsworth, the substitute, a chance to claim an FA Cup semi-final place in the team. Holdsworth drove his shot strong and true, but Hislop stretched high to cling on to the ball ... and a draw was a fitting end to the affair.

WIMBLEDON (4-3-3): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, C. Peacock, D. Blackwell, A. Kettle — P. Peter, R. Eddie, D. Leonhardsen, E. Ekoku, M. Harford, (sub) D. Holdsworth, Binni, M. Gayle, (sub) D. Hislop. NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-5-1): S. Hislop — S. Watson, D. Peacock, P. Albert, R. Elliott — K. Gillespie, W. Barton, R. Lee, D. Batty, D. Glende — F. Asprilla. Referee: S. Lodge.

## Limping Le Tissier remains hopeful of another escape

Southampton ..... 2  
Leicester City ..... 2

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

IT IS tough at the bottom. Southampton and Leicester City scratched out a result on Saturday which did not please either manager very much. "Sloppy goals," Matthew Le Tissier called the two Southampton gave away. When the first went in after he had cleared from the line, he kicked a post in frustration.

Would he be fit to play for England against Mexico, given the painful foot and the groin injury? With typically honesty, he replied:

"The way I feel at the moment, I couldn't do myself justice in an international."

After playing only half a game against Chelsea in midweek, Le Tissier stayed on the field for 90 minutes. It was the quicksilver little Israeli, Eyal Berkovic, who surprisingly came off, after 63 minutes. He had been the salient figure of the first half, his ball skills a delight, his passing often inspired. He set up Ostendorf for the low cross shot which put Southampton ahead in the 32nd minute.

The explanation for his substitution by Southampton's worried manager, Graeme Souness, was: "I just thought the game was passing

him by. It was going over his head."

As for Le Tissier: "What we are scared off is that we're going to end up with a Paul Gascoigne situation." Meaning that Le Tissier, in England training, might exacerbate his injuries. Le Tissier himself admitted that by the end of a game his injuries stiffen up. "I struggle. I try to limp through."

Before anxiety set in after half-time, it was Southampton who played the football. Without a home win for three months, they took the game to Leicester. When the frustrated crowd shouted: "Have a shot!" they responded.

But after the interval came the transformation. "We did better in

the second half," Martin O'Neill, Leicester's manager, said. "A cynic would say we couldn't possibly do any worse. I was just pleased to get something out of it."

The powerful, promising Emile Heskey came to life. As O'Neill said: "When he declares himself fit, he plays." Heskey's attacking partner, Steve Claridge, became more threatening, too.

Both scored goals, of a sort. Stunningly for Southampton, the first one came just a couple of minutes into the second half. Parker took an inswinging left-wing corner, Izett shot it in, confusion followed. Claridge shot. Le Tissier blocked on the line, the ball went in off Heskey.

Another three minutes, however, and Southampton went ahead again from another confusing corner. Le Tissier took it from the right, van Gobbel, after a scramble, drove the ball in and, it eventually went into the goal off Claridge.

"We've got to show more bottle," Souness said but Le Tissier, for one, has still not given up hope of a great escape.

"I have immense self-belief, and also draw upon the experience of past years when we've been in equally sticky situations and got out of them."

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): M. Taylor — U. van Gobbel, R. Ostendorf, E. Berkovic, S. Claridge, J. Magilton, R. Souness, E. Berkovic (sub M. Evans, 89m), M. Odeley — E. Ostendorf (sub S. Basher, 79), M. La Tissier.

LEICESTER CITY (4-5-1): K. Poole — P. Keane (sub J. Johnson, 70), S. Watson, N. Elliott — M. Izett, N. Lennon, G. Parker (sub J. Lawrence, 81), S. Guppy, S. Grayson — E. Heskey, S. Claridge. Referee: K. Burge.

## Waddle unable to break the mould

Sunderland ..... 1  
Nottingham Forest ..... 1

By RICHARD HOBSON

IT WAS sales time in the Sunderland club shop. Supporters rushed to the stack of discounted merchandise, failing to notice one new item on offer. There, in the corner, stood a row of T-shirts bearing a portrait of the local boy made good, above the words "True Colours". Chris Waddle was coming home.

Roker Park has changed little since Waddle spent some of the happiest days of his boyhood at the Fulwell End. What has evolved is the game. On Saturday, like those T-shirts, Waddle was stranded away from the centre of attention and lost in the chaos around him.

"In the second half we did not get the ball out to Chris often enough," Peter Reid, the manager, said afterwards.

Football, like fashion, has its cycles and it was easy to recall the burning issue during Graham Taylor's period as England manager. Even at the age of 36, Waddle might be more effective in a free role rather than as an orthodox winger.

As Taylor had many times before him, Reid indicated that the option would be considered, but not with any great enthusiasm.

Sunderland have managed to stay out of the bottom three through lung power. They have jostled, harried and cajoled and woe betide any side, such as Manchester United, that underestimates them.

Waddle was signed to vary the tempo. Thus, he slouched pasty-faced along the left flank as if in need of an oxygen mask; but appearances can

deceive, particularly where Waddle is concerned.

In the 83rd minute he switched to the right to produce his party-piece and it almost secured the victory that his side deserved. Dragging the ball along with his left foot, apparently harmlessly, he dropped his shoulder, accelerated between Roy and Pearce and shot narrowly wide.

Such moments of skill were

all too rare on an afternoon full of anxiety. In the first half Bridges, a flowering talent, hit the bar and Van Hooijdonk squandered a good position at the opposite end, yet, when Ball met Waddle's corner with a thundering volley in the 61st minute, it appeared that Forest would struggle to recover.

What a surprise, then, when Lytle shot into the far corner four minutes from the end after Sunderland failed to clear a free kick from Pearce.

Despite the recent takeover,

Forest, who face Middlesbrough today, are still a club with problems.

It ill-befits a side crafted by Brian Clough to rely on high balls to Van Hooijdonk. Saunders had a good, albeit technical, adequate technical and probably nice lads to introduce to your mums.

But passion? Spirit? Forget it.

Derby County, on the other

hand, now here is a team to

drive the cloners up the wall.

They come in all shapes and

sizes, there is technique (very

sketchy) in patches and no

obviously blinding talent.

But send them out to run at a

brick wall and they would do

it willingly.

It was one of those Baseball

Ground afternoons. Totten-

ham, for all their pretty skills

and fancy panthers, were never

going to win this FA

Carling Premiership match on Saturday. Even when they almost bizarrely found themselves back all square at 2-2 just after the interval, there was never any suggestion that they would secure victory.

If they are going to clone

success at Tottenham, they

must hope it is not merely

physical attributes that can be

reproduced. Derby displayed

some of the baser require-

ments in achieving a victory

that goes some way to ensur-

ing Premiership survival.

## Derby display will worthy of copying

Derby County ..... 4  
Tottenham Hotspur ..... 2

By DAVID MADDOCK

IT IS rare to see a team as apparently cloned as Derby. The 4-5-1 formation that they adopted in the first half was a good one, but it was not the best. The ball was not moving, the players were not moving, the ball was not moving.

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## Juninho's ball skills too much for Chelsea

Middlesbrough ..... 1  
Chelsea ..... 0

By MARK HODKINSON

FOOTBALLERS of a certain vintage used to call it "car park football". It was an aphorism for that rare player who could play the game with a liberated heart, mind and feet. In literal terms, he would perform with the same *joie de vivre* on the pitch as he would on the club car park.

Juninho is a car park footballer. His game is a celebration of the moment and is not encumbered by anything except the pleasure of playing, of running, of dancing across the grass. Schoolboy-sized, he is a little lad watching his older brother's pals boozing the ball around on some waste land.

Two wins from five remaining home games was the target he set before this match and he has got one now, thanks in large part to the emotion generated by one of the most intimidating crowds remaining in the new middle-class world of football.

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John Hopkins tries to keep up with a sporting celebrity on a whirlwind weekend

# Offiah still intent on cracking two codes

**J**ust before 1pm on Friday a black Mercedes drove us through the gates of Buckingham Palace. It was one of those limousines with darkened windows favoured by people who pretend that they do not want to be seen but do really. When it stopped and the windows were wound down, you could see that Martin Offiah was in the front passenger seat, holding up his MBE insignia — awarded for services to rugby — that the Prince of Wales had just presented to him. In the back seat were his mother, Regina, in a multicoloured dress and with a smile as wide as Africa, and Zara, his girlfriend.

It was a glorious spring day, and by now Offiah's odyssey was well under way. He had woken just after seven o'clock and had been driven to the Palace for the investiture. In the next 27 hours Offiah would play a game of rugby league for London Broncos and a rugby union match for Bedford.

This hectic, publicity-driven stunt would come to a rousing conclusion with him making a try-scoring dash for the line to seal Bedford's 32-11 victory over Rotherham. It was symbolic, however, that Offiah, who had left the Palace on Friday in a chauffeur-driven Mercedes, had to cajole a lift from Rotherham rugby ground on Saturday in a Citroën Xantia, driven by a team-mate.

Who is this tall, slim and rather shy man, uneasy with the media, not yet a part of the Bedford rugby union team for whom he recently signed, and not fully integrated into the London Broncos, the rugby league team in which Richard Branson's Virgin Group recently bought a much-heralded interest? Offiah is a man who has crossed codes and yet seems slightly out of place in both. He is of both union and league, yet truly of neither.

Sometimes the publicity that he generates works to his cost. His much-vaunted helicopter ride from Battersea to Manchester before the Super League game against Warrington Wolves will not be repeated. "I've not been up in a helicopter before and I shan't be going up in a helicopter

Yet he seems slightly out of place in both'

we would like and I am sure he would like," Geoff Cooke, the director of rugby at Bedford, said.

"What has he scored — ten or 11 tries for us in eight or nine games? Union is so much more crowded than league. Judging a run for a ball from a ruck in union is much less predictable. Martin is his own man. He is not really a team man. He certainly is not your usual rugby type."

Is Offiah an ageing star doing the rounds before *anno domini* takes all the speed from his legs? Perhaps; but he still has a genuine appeal. He might not have made much impression at Warrington on Friday, but the moment that he took the pitch at Rotherham, one small boy said to another: "There he is. There's Martin Offiah."

Cooke said: "There is a real buzz around the ground the moment Martin gets the ball. This is sometimes followed a moment or two later by a groan when he is tackled." Perhaps Offiah is worth the £400,000 that his manager said he earns from his cross-codes contracts.



Offiah caps his weekend in style by bursting clear to score for Bedford with only his third touch of the ball. Photograph: Marc Aspland

After popping in at the Palace for his gong, Offiah prepares to be airlifted to Warrington, where he helps London Broncos to a 38-18 victory

Offiah is not an easy communicator. After the game on Friday he sat in a room beneath the main stand, looking ill at ease. He wore a royal blue denim shirt, white trousers, brown slip-on shoes. Cradled in his hand was his comforter, a mobile phone, that symbol of the 90s without which no celebrity is complete.

His eyes darted around, as if searching for a friendly face.

He was asked to explain the difference between union and league. He gulped and forced a joke: "That's an essay question. Anyone who has watched the two games knows the difference. League is a lot more physically demanding game, union is a lot more complex. You don't get so many running chances in the backs in union. Today our forwards played pretty well.

I've played in union when I don't think I've touched the ball once.

"In union the players are much fitter than they used to be. They close things down, work a lot harder. Without a doubt the level of fitness is the biggest difference. English rugby used to be a bit set-piece to set-piece. I find now there is a lot more free space.

The special aspect of a

rugby union game has changed. You can't have a professional game and have a big social thing afterwards. There are so many prizes for winning. Bedford have to get into the first division. If Bedford don't, I'm sure Frank Warren is not going to be too happy after he has invested so much money. I see quite a lot of Frank. He is chairman of the club. He has a hands-on

role now. He said at his last press conference that it was his last game, so he is going to dictate how it is going to be spent.

"I have signed for Bedford for four years. I have signed for the Broncos for three years. Then I'm going to be a long time retired. I've got to make the most of these last couple of years and then seek other employment." He is certainly doing that.

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## St Helens accept early invitation to final

St Helens ..... 50  
Salford Reds ..... 20

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

**S**UCH is the overwhelming sense of confidence at St Helens that, several minutes before the end of a crushing Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final victory, joyous supporters were having leaflets advertising Wembley packed press to their hands.

It was strange to hear Shaun McRae, their Australian coach, insist that at no time in the match had he felt comfortable, because it is the self-belief that he has preached in the past 14 months that has put steel in the St Helens spine. Wigan have handed out countless master classes at Central Park, but the one given by St Helens on Saturday was especially brilliant.

Poor Salford. Only Wigan's freakish 71-point drubbing of Bradford five years ago

spared them conceding the heaviest defeat in a semi-final. It is easy to criticise the gamble on Cartwright and Platt, who were not alone in carrying injuries, but Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, was honest enough to admit that even a fully-fit side would not have stopped a rampant St Helens.

McRae was probably alone among the 12,500 at Central Park in biting his lip. In Private Fraser's favourite word, Salford — "Dad's Army" — appeared "doomed" from the beginning. Pitchfork-carrying veterans are no match for swaggering young guns. St Helens bristled with pace, nerve and intuition and long before the finish Salford's weary tacklers had bowed to the inevitable.

Bobbie Goulding, who ends a six-match suspension next month for his dismissal in the fourth round defeat of Wigan, has much for which to be grateful. There is little doubt that he, not Lee Briers will be

With the exception of Leeds, nobody would quibble with

another St Helens v Bradford final to celebrate the competition's centenary after the classic last year. "Having been to Wembley and tasted success, we wouldn't like not have gone again," McRae said. "There's a theory that you have to get beaten in a final to win one. If Bradford get through, I just hope that doesn't work out."

Although Keiron Cunningham took the man-of-the-match award, embellished by a stunning individual try and some risible tackling on Salford's part, there were any number of candidates. Karl Hammond's switch from stand-off to loose forward last season has proved productive. Three times his subtle timing and passes in midfield unlocked the Salford defence to release the unstoppable Alan Hunte down the right.

Down the left flank, Salford were no less wobbly. Anthony Sullivan's hat-trick was completed in 22 minutes. By far the best of his tries was the first, as Newlove swotted off

four would-be tacklers. A hapless Salford trio was so busy tracking the centre they were thrown off the scent by his neat switch infield to Sullivan.

Salford were justified in their grievance about the build-up to the try by Jonty on half-time. Rogers was wrongly judged to have made contact with the kick put up by Martyn, which allowed St Helens six extra tackles from which they made the score 14-4.

For the final, helter-skelter try by Prescott, Salford had already retreated, while St Helens supporters were booking their trips to London.

**SCORERS:** St Helens: Tries: Hunte (3), Sullivan (2), Jonty, Cunningham, Pritchard, Gurney, Newlove, G. Davies, Rogers, Tries: Blakeley, Rogers, McAvoy, Goules, Stakeley (4).  
**ST HELENS:** Tries: D. Rogers, F. Sni, S. Taylor, N. McAvoy, P. Couzens, S. Blakeley, J. Watson, A. Platt, P. Edwards, C. Eccles, P. Fenton, R. Newlove, A. Gurney, A. Hunte, L. Savelid, C. Randall, E. Farmato, S. Martin. Referee: S. Cummings (Widnes)



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## ICE HOCKEY

### Nottingham negotiate marathon semi-final

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

**I**N THE longest game in the history of British ice hockey, Nottingham Panthers beat Ayr Scottish Eagles 6-5 to qualify for the Superleague championship final next Saturday, where they will meet Sheffield Steelers, who were 5-2 winners over Cardiff Devils in the other semi-final.

With 5½ minutes of regulation time to go, and Ayr leading 5-2, Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, queried the legality of Ryan Kummus's stick. The curvature of the blade was found to be over the limit and, during the resulting Nottingham power play, Ian Bishop scored to narrow the gap to two. Neil Morgan and Bishop then brought the Panthers level within the next 80 seconds and what had looked like a convincing Ayr victory became an extraordinary battle.

The teams embarked on a ten-minute sudden death overtime period, but it proved to be the first of five such periods which failed to produce a goal. It was not until the sixth minute of the sixth extra session that Jeff Hoad scored to bring the Panthers their hard-earned success.

That ended 115 minutes and 49 seconds of actual playing time and the game took four hours and 33 minutes to complete. Both goaltenders — Sven Ramf, of Ayr, and Trevor Robins, of Nottingham — made some spectacular saves during overtime, knowing that one small mistake could cost their team the game. Robins, asked if he had found it difficult to maintain concentration over such a long period, said: "Concentration is tougher at the start, but in a long game like that, it is essential to keep a positive frame of mind; the fatigue factor is the biggest problem."

For Kummus, it was an amazing lapse as he had been penalised for the same offence in a quarter-final game against Manchester Storm. Had Blaisdell seen that on television? "I read about it," he said, "but I was desperate and we needed a power play."

Ironically, the winning goal came after Bishop had been sent to the penalty box for a holding offence, but Hoad broke away and sank his own rebound for the winner.

Sheffield's win over Cardiff seemed mundane by comparison. It was something of a surprise, as the Devils had had the better of their league meetings this season, but the Steelers played a strong, disciplined defensive game and never allowed Cardiff to set

## Shannon tread well-worn trail to another title

Shannon ..... 15  
Terenure College ..... 12

By KARL JOHNSTON

**L**IMERICK'S annual Civic Week is in full swing, and those who chose to attend local attractions other than the Insurance Corporation League rugby union match at Thomond Park on Saturday should be congratulated on their judgment. The absence of tries tells it like it was a dreary encounter, dominated by the goalkeepers — Andrew Thompson of Shannon, and Girvan Dempsey, for Terenure.

Not that the Shannon faithful will worry. Their team took another, albeit faltering, step towards a third successive league title, the winning of

which now looks a near-certainty. However, they were somewhat fortunate to get past opponents who refused to be overawed.

Before this match Shannon had experienced a few close shaves in the defence of their league title. Last Saturday they were thoroughly unconvincing, as turned-over possession and knock-ons proliferated.

Once, late in the first half, Shannon moved the ball well, when Billy O'Shea all but broke the cover, but with the pack providing only spasmodic clean possession, chances for the backs were at a premium.

By contrast, Terenure launched far more promising attacks, featuring some good running by Ciaran Clarke, the full back, and the inventive Michael Smyth in the centre. Shan-

non's defence was, though, as well organised and resolute as usual.

A draw may have been a fair result, though Terenure's supporters can point to the two missed goal kicks by Dempsey, Thompson, whose form as a goal-kicker tends to blow hot and cold for Shannon, also missed a veritable sitter from the 22-metre line.

The two exchanged penalty goals within the first 16 minutes, before Dempsey's second successful kick, left Terenure leading 6-5 at half-time. Then, he and Thompson each landed two more goals to leave Shannon trailing 12-9 at the start of the final quarter.

It was then that Terenure's luck ran out. First Mark Egan was penalised for a lineout and Thompson's fourth penalty goal tied the scores with some

12 minutes left. A promising Terenure offensive then broke down, Shannon roared back, the Terenure forwards handled in a ruck and Thompson kicked Shannon into the lead. Dungannon, Old Crescent and Instonians stand between Shannon and that third league triumph, and the match at Stevenson Park this Saturday is likely to be their only real test in the pursuit of victory.

**SCORERS:** Shannon: Penalty goals: Thompson (5), Terenure: C. Egan, A. O'Shea, T. Martin, J. Breen, A. McDonnell, A. Thompson, J. Galvin, G. Russell, J. Hickey, J. Deegan, M. Hayes, A. Quillan, R. Shan, M. Gately, E. Hayes, P. McDonnell. Substitutes: J. Hayes replaced by M. Hayes (58). T. Martin replaced by M. Horan (68). J. Hayes temporary replacement for O'Shea Hayes (54-55).  
**TERENURE COLLEGE:** C. Clarke, G. Dempsey, M. Smyth, C. de Gaspari, D. Colman, S. Cullen, N. Hogan, D. Hyland, C. Egan, A. Breen, J. Hayes, G. Russell, J. Martin, B. Quinn, T. Martin, J. Breen, A. McDonnell (47); M. Egan replaced by D. McDonnell (75).  
**Referee:** D. Napier (Ulster)





# Sun shines down on bright lights of future

By MICHAEL AYLMER

SCHOOLDAYS are widely held to be the best days and, for those lucky enough to be involved, schools' day at Twickenham on Saturday would certainly qualify as one of the better ones.

With relatively little happening elsewhere, schoolboy rugby was last week granted a small window in the season through which to shine. The Rosslyn Park sevens was as big and successful as ever, and on Saturday Twickenham hosted three of the main schoolboy fixtures of the season: the *Daily Mail* under-15 and under-18 schools cup finals, and the international between the England schools 18 Group and their counterparts from France.

Twickenham was abuzz. The cumulative noise was a couple of semi-tones higher than usual, but the enthusiasm was unbridled. Brilliant pockets of uniformed colour decorated the crowd of 20,000.

Sedbergh, which has produced players at every representative level of England rugby this season, has attracted some of Great Britain's best schools to its ten-a-side tournament today and tomorrow. Durham, the beaten finalists in the Rosslyn Park sevens last week, join the likes of Llandover and Edinburgh Academy for the competition, in which the most successful team from each of the four pools goes forward to a separate competition.

as separate enclaves vied with each other during the two cup finals, before coming together for the international. "The girls in blue think the Kirkham XV are worth a try," read one banner. The rugby thrilled. The sun shone. Schooldays sat fondly in the memory.

Yet, amid all the heady excitement, the benevolent gaze of those older and wiser issued forth from brows beginning to crease with concern. The game is now professional and that is already beginning to filter through to schools level. Scholarships are being set up and boys are being targeted. Michael Pearcey, formerly president of the Rugby Football Union, now in charge of schools, is aware of the vital role that his department now plays.

A lot of these boys understandably have stars in their eyes and hope that they will make hundreds of thousands of pounds in top-class rugby."

## SPORT IN SCHOOLS

he said. "We have got to make them realise that only a tiny minority will ever manage that and so a full and rounded education remains a priority for all of them."

Geoff Wappert, delighted after the England team that he coaches became the first this season to beat their French equivalents, 20-10, sounded similarly cautious notes. "It's very flattering for the boys, and their parents, too, when big clubs show interest, but I would like to see a code of practice established that would create order between clubs and the boys they are interested in," he said.

Wappert is concerned at the lack of a solid bridge between schools rugby and club rugby, and would like to see an intermediate league created involving the top schools and colts teams from the leading clubs. Pearcey, meanwhile, sees a national "super league" for the top schools as inevitable.

The march of progress, then, is taking schools rugby with it. In my schooldays, not so long ago, there were no Gatorade bottles and shimmering shell suits with school insignia emblazoned across them; not to mention the possibility of appearing at Twickenham in the final of a national competition.

This year the Gatorade-swigging finalists were RGS High Wycombe and Whifflit, in the juniors, and Colston's Collegiate and Kirkham Grammar School in the seniors. High Wycombe, the captain and scrum half, caught the eye, became the first school to retain the junior title, while Colston's became the first school to win the senior event three times in a row.

The rugby in both finals was exhilarating but contained a healthy number of mistakes and imperfections. The unfettered exuberance of those playing, and those watching provided a spectacle high in flair and adventure, adding weight to the view that schooldays are indeed the best days.



Lee Pointing, right, of Bootle High School, takes the contest to Louis Cadman, the King Harold School boxer

## Refusing to throw in the towel in pursuit of former glory

Ivo Tennant on the fight by boxing to halt a drastic decline at schools level

In 50 years of the schools' national boxing championships, not one fatality or serious injury has occurred. This, though, is the sport that has been expunged from the gymnasium through a concerted effort by headmasters, the British Medical Association, teacher training colleges and even physical education experts. It is, they say, too dangerous to have anything to do with the national curriculum.

Until now, perhaps. Who said this in support of bringing boxing back into the schools? "A number of chief constables hold the view that, if boys spent their evenings letting off steam in the gym, they would not be hitting old ladies over the head," Henry Cooper? A backbench Tory MP? No, the likely in-coming Labour Minister for Sport, Tom Pendry.

How politics has changed. It was certain Labour ministers and councillors who, in the 1960s, accelerated the decline of boxing in schools. A decade earlier, 53,000 boys between the ages of 12 and 18 attended the national championships finals one year at Wembley. At Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham, where on Saturday the fiftieth anniversary tournament was held, this figure had plummeted to 624.

The age-group had been narrowed to 12-16 and the standard was mixed, but the enthusiasm ... "The point is that the disciplines of boxing you learn at school — a training routine, stamina, courage — can be transferred into later life," Dudley Savill, the general secretary of the Schools Amateur Boxing Association (SABA) said.

The British Medical Association has put forward propaganda successfully, but has not come up with any evidence which sticks on the amateur side of the sport. I want to get a dialogue going.

In a climate in which there is a great deal of bullying, boxing should be given an opportunity again. Had it been more generally available, it could have had an effect on reducing crime figures."

The majority of the boys who reached the finals on Saturday were from working-class backgrounds. "There has been no attempt to maintain boxing in independent schools," Simon Kemp, of *Amateur Boxing News*, said. "That has affected the opportunities of talented boxers from poor backgrounds and brought the sport in universities to the point of extinction. Teacher training colleges, medical schools and the top independent boarding schools should be targeted to resume boxing."

Such a task is the responsibility of the Schools Commission, a newly formed sub-committee of the SABA. Its chairman is Jim Smart, who, as headmaster of Churchmead, a comprehensive in Datchett, introduced boxing four years ago. "Only one or two schools in the whole country box now, but, if

we told children they would be doing so, they would run home to pick up as much gear as they could find," he said.

Twenty of Smart's 555 pupils box and five of them are (non-contact) girls. His aim is for 30 schools to take up the sport this year. "We have to start with non-contact boxing for 11-year-olds upwards," he said. "All the boys wear up-to-date headguards and we are looking at using heavier gloves. I am only prepared to have boxing at a school which has a properly qualified person in charge."

As for the boys, the pontificating of politicians and the anxieties of their teachers merely washes over them. Alexander Gibbons, 13, who attends a comprehensive in Bognor Regis, concurred with his father, former Amateur Boxing Association divisional champion, that boxing makes for a less violent society. On Saturday he became the junior "A" champion. "Headguards?" he said. "I know they are supposed to protect you, but they narrow the target area. I don't think we should have them."

Meanwhile, Coventry's impressive start to the Speedway Star Cup stuttered over the weekend when they lost away to Belle Vue on Friday night and were held to a draw at home to Wolverhampton the next evening. Low-scoring from Shane Bowes and Simon Cross, the second strings, left the Bees struggling against a consistent Wolverhampton team, but Greg Hancock, Coventry's top rider, continued his electric start to the season.

Hancock, the world No 3, has been beaten by an opponent just once in 20 races this season — and that was when he suffered carburettor trouble against Swindon while leading the heat.

Bradford confirmed their credentials as potential Elite League pacemakers with a comfortable 56-34 home victory over Swindon on Saturday. David Walsh, signed just last week to fill the reserve slot left after Todd Wilshire was refused a work permit, topped the scorechart on his debut.

## NETBALL

### No fuss as England prevail

By A CORRESPONDENT

WHEN, on Friday afternoon,

the Chelsea football team

strode into Heathrow for a

flight to Teesside, they were

treated like royalty. In contrast, the England women's

netball squad, bound for

Belfast, were almost unnoticed.

Yet, while Chelsea lost their

Carling Premiership

match away to Middles-

brough, England prevailed 71-

40 against Northern Ireland.

Ironically, the England team

included interchangeable goal

attack and goal shooter —

Tracy Neville, the sister of

Gary and Phil, the

Manchester United defenders,

and Tracy Bartram, the wife of

the Arsenal reserve goal-

keeper.

Neville and Bartram each

enjoyed shooting ratios of

more than 80 per cent, but

readily acknowledged the part

played by Amanda Newton,

who made some significant

interceptions as a substitute

goalkeeper. England fielded a

mix of under-21 and senior

players. One newcomer,

Olivia Murphy, impressed at

the national tour route.

The winners of the 1996

tours — Karl Johnson, Martin

Lewis and Robert Oldaker —

have entered again, and John-

son will be the first JGT

champion to defend his title.

Several clubs have multiple

entries, and Camberley

Heath, which has five in-

cludes the 17-year-old twins,

Ben and Grant Willman. The

brothers are into filial togetherness right down to their

handicaps — they both play

off five.

Scotland received a fright in

Manchester on Saturday

when they defeated Guernsey

34-29 after trailing with five

minutes remaining.

## SPEEDWAY

### Wigg leads Knights to Star Cup success

By TONY HOARE

IT WAS the result that nobody expected. A King's Lynn team, put together at the eleventh hour, travelled to Peterborough and pulled off an unexpected 49-41 victory in a Speedway Star Cup group match on Friday night.

Short of practice, because their stadium and track are not yet ready for action, King's Lynn thus became the first visiting team since 1994 to win at the Panthers' Alwalton track.

Peterborough finished second in the Premier League last season and expected to figure prominently in the Elite League championship race this year, led by Jason Crump, a British record signing from Poole for £35,000 last January. In contrast, King's Lynn have put together a side on a shoestring budget, with a mixture of loan riders and foreign assets recalled after the club's year out of action in 1996.

Top scorer for the Knights at the fast and narrow Peterborough circuit was Simon Wigg, a former world championship runner-up, who joined King's Lynn two weeks ago on loan from Bradford.

Wigg, 36, scored 13 points, despite racing with a broken rib suffered in practice at Oxford last Monday. "To go to Peterborough and win is brilliant, everyone is shocked about it," Wigg said.

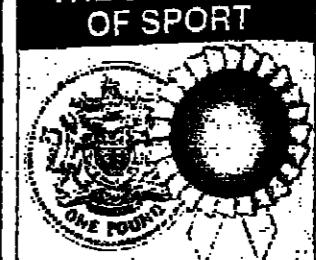
"I'm very pleasantly surprised. Everybody was jumping up and down about how well Peterborough were doing and we've been there and beaten them. I don't think any of the supporters could believe it because they had gone to Peterborough with no expectations. We were a very happy bunch."

Meanwhile, Coventry's impressive start to the Speedway Star Cup stuttered over the weekend when they lost away to Belle Vue on Friday night and were held to a draw at home to Wolverhampton the next evening. Low-scoring from Shane Bowes and Simon Cross, the second strings, left the Bees struggling against a consistent Wolverhampton team, but Greg Hancock, Coventry's top rider, continued his electric start to the season.

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## THE BUSINESS OF SPORT



Sport has always played a leading role in election campaigns, with politicians keen to claim some of the credit for the country's sporting prowess. This campaign has kicked off in familiar fashion with the main party leaders desperate to grab photo-opportunities with leading figures in sport.

The chances of any of the parties including some serious proposals in their manifestos to help develop the nation's sports, however, look minimal. Yet sport is more than a niche activity in the country. The Sports Council estimates that there are around 28 million regular participants in sports, supporting an industry that employs 450,000 people and raises several billion pounds in taxes. Add to that the millions who enjoy sport from the comfort of their armchairs and you have an instant that constituency politicians should find hard to resist.

**The Times** has got together with Richard Baldwin, a tax partner at Deloitte and Touche accountants, and the Central Council of Physical Recreation to produce its own manifesto for sport. The measures are reasonably simple and can all be achieved at no great cost; the tax measures are costed at little more than £100 million. Not only would they raise the country's sporting reputation, but also, with more leading events and participants at all levels, they could end up actually increasing the money that the Government receives from sport-related activities.

□ Tax A few simple tax changes would make a real difference to the country's ability to bid for top sporting events. Euro '96 was a genuinely successful tournament, raising more than £60 million for the Government, but other countries offer a more favourable VAT rate that may tempt future tournaments elsewhere. Reducing VAT on admissions would have saved the Euro '96 organisers around £5 million.

International sporting bodies and international events are also subject to corporation tax. Creating a more tax-friendly environment, by making corporation tax payments more coherent or even abolishing tax for sporting organisations, as in Australia, would make the United Kingdom more competitive.

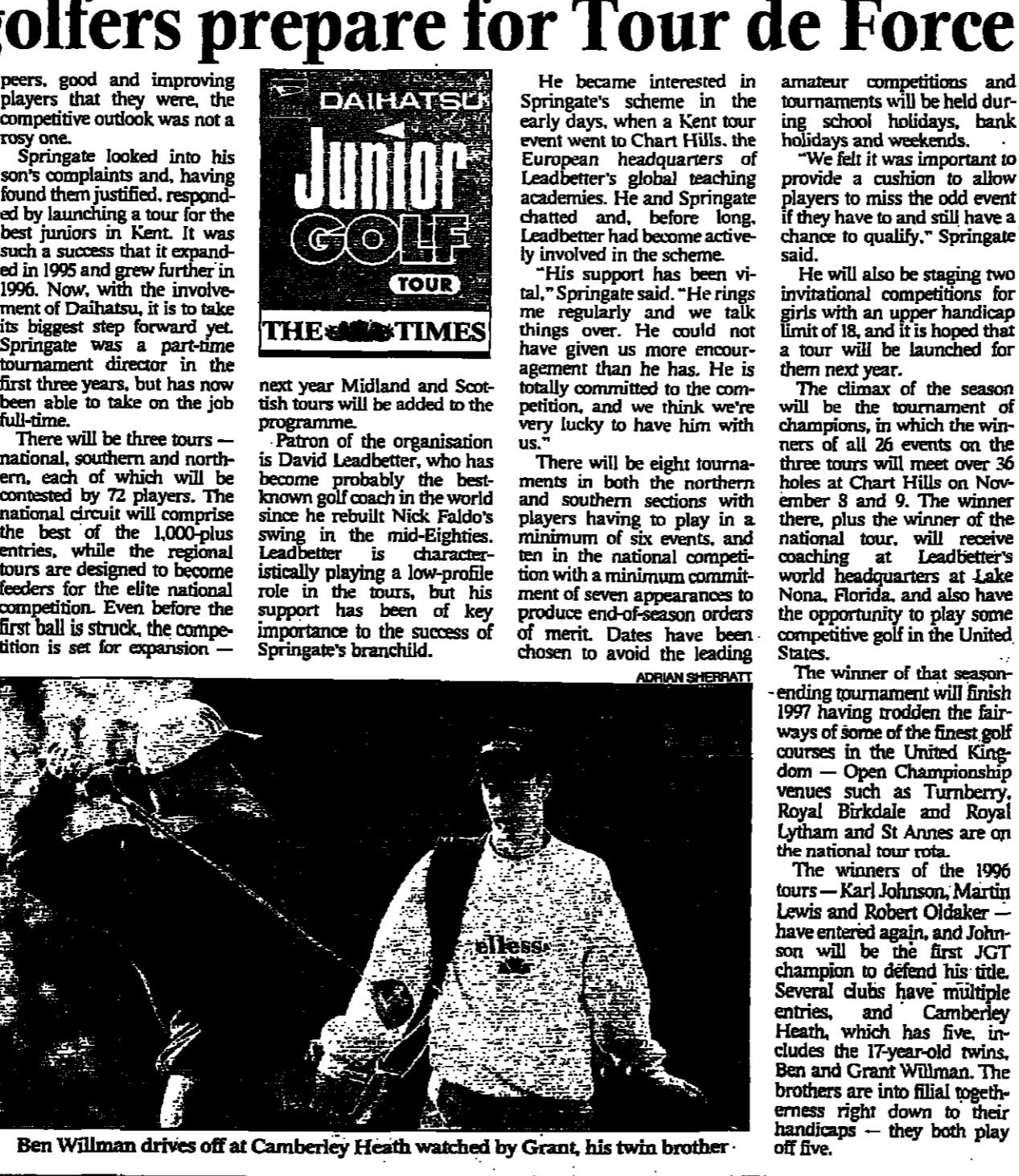
□ Charity Local sports clubs are mostly run by volunteers on a non-profit basis. Yet, unlike the neighbouring amateur dramatics clubs, local sports clubs are not regarded as charities. Granting the clubs charitable status would enable them to become exempt from corporation tax on fund-raising and sponsorship income. The clubs would also be eligible for relief from business rates.

□ Lottery The lottery levy could be reduced from 12 per cent and some of the money channelled to assist youth sport, while unclaimed prize-money could also be given to charity rather than returned to the prize pool. Sporting organisations have greatly benefited from lottery grants but there are a few changes to the procedure which would improve the system, including a simplified application procedure for small grants.

□ Europe Sport has always been vital to Europe with clubs competing across the continent long before the establishment of the EU, but there is no reference to sport in the Maastricht Treaty. Adding sport to the treaty would not only recognise its importance to the EU nations but also would allow leading sporting bodies to advise Europe on the consequences of new legislation for sport.

□ Playing fields: There has been some recent action to try to stem the sell-off of playing fields, but the greatest help would be the repeal of regulations that encourage local authorities to dispose of their sites. Once recreation facilities are lost, they cannot be replaced, so obliging local authorities to research strategies for the future of playing fields should also help to ensure that sufficient playing fields exist for the next generation.

ALASDAIR MURRAY



Ben Willman drives off at Camberley Heath watched by Grant, his twin brother



James Henderson previews one of the greatest international canoe races: 125 miles from Devizes to London

# All the way on paddle power

**A**s you watch the agonised and exhausted faces in the Boat Race crews this coming Saturday, at the end of their four miles from Putney to Mortlake, spare a thought for the crews of canoeists who will be arriving in London from the other direction. They have come all the way from Devizes, Wiltshire, 125 miles away, on one of the world's longest and most arduous canoeing races.

The Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race, takes place each Easter weekend and 1997 is its Golden Jubilee. Up to 400 boats from as far away as Denmark, Malta, the United States and Pakistan will be taking part.

The event starts before dawn on Good Friday at the wharf in Devizes. Competitors paddle the length of the Kennet & Avon Canal to Reading, where they will join the Thames and paddle down to London, finishing at Westminster Bridge.

"There's nothing quite like the DW," Steve Harris, who partners Ivan Lawler as the reigning world doubles marathon canoe champion, and who has competed in the event in the past, says. Their longest race on the international circuit is 26 miles long. The DW is five times that.

"It's so long and arduous," Harris says, "that it scares off a lot of the elite paddlers because it could put them out for the rest of the season."

Instead, the DW is mainly an amateur challenge, but there is no shortage of people prepared to drive themselves to the point of physical collapse in their efforts to complete it. And as if the canoeing is not enough, there are locks to contend with: 77 of them. Paddlers have to "portage" around them; they get out, pick up their canoe, and walk, or run, around the lock, put the boat back in and cast off as quickly as they can.

It sounds difficult, but one competitor admitted: "Actually, portages are not that bad. They get the circulation in the legs going again."

The race, which has taken on a style of true dering-do and adventure, was conceived in a pub as a bet in the 1930s, when a group of friends wagered that they could take a skiff from Pewsey in Wiltshire to Mudeford near Christchurch, Dorset, in less than three days, which they did. The challenge was resurrected over the current route in the



late 1940s and canoeists joined them in 1948. The race has been staged annually ever since.

There are four classes within the DW and up to 60 trophies are given in all: for different categories and styles of canoe.

Three classes — the junior doubles, senior singles and the veteran/junior combination — are run in daily "stages" over the Easter weekend. Paddlers race about 35 miles on each of the first three days. Then, on Easter Monday at 8.30am there will be a mass start at Ham, and 120 boats will ride the last 17 miles of the course downstream, reaching Westminster Bridge by about ten o'clock.

The fourth class is the senior doubles, an innocent-sounding name for what turns out to be an unequal, gruelling slog lasting between 16 and 24 hours without a break. This

**'The bones ache, the brain plays tricks. Only strength of personality will get you through it'**

event is paddled "straight through": no time is allotted for rest or food. About half of the total entrants will be in this class and quite a few of those will not make it.

It is a truly tough event. Apart from the sheer length, which makes it so exhausting, there is the unpredictable weather (particularly this year because Easter is so early). Competitors can find themselves paddling in a T-shirt during the day if it is sunny and then a few hours later it can be freezing. The worst moment

seems to come about an hour before dawn, when it is coldest and teams have been paddling through the night in the dark.

Tansin Phipps, who has paddled the race eight times in the past ten years and has won the women's event once and the mixed event another year, says: "That's when the bones are aching and the brain starts playing tricks. It is only strength of personality that gets you through."

It's true. It takes a certain mind-set to keep going and going, thoughts fixed on the next portage, without letting the cold, hunger and discomfort turn to doubt. There is a saying that competitors take their brain out in Devizes and get it back at Westminster.

Finally, the race throws in one more challenge. It is vital to catch the outgoing tide in the final stretch from Teddington Lock because it is impossible to paddle against the flow. Competitors choose their own start times in order to arrive there at high tide. Just imagine the disappointment of having to wait for six hours on the riverbank.

As well as entries from clubs, there is a long Services tradition in the DW. The Royal Engineers and Marines always enter and often so do the Police and RAF. There have been some well-known competitors in past years — among them Robin Knox Johnston and Chay Blyth — but the best-known alumnus of the race is Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrats leader, who competed in the 1965 race while he was in the Marines, winning his class for the year. He is reputed to have said that he knows of only one person in history who had a more miserable Easter. It is a long haul to Westminster, however you look at it.

So why do these people do it? Why do they put themselves through such cold, wet misery, and for so long, for no obvious material gain?

For men like Harris and Lawler, there is the potential prestige of breaking the record, but for most people the answer lies in the challenge, and there are as many answers as there are people.

Some want to beat their time from last year, others want to beat their father's time from 20 years before. Others are raising money for charity. Many competitors simply want to finish — in itself a huge accomplishment.

For all the agony and exhaustion, the feelings of pain



Near Pewsey, Wiltshire, in the Devizes-Westminster canoe race, a competition that started as a pub bet in the 1930s and is now an international event.



Passing a lock like the repetitive paddling, hard work, but great for restoring the circulation in the legs

THE easiest and safest introduction to canoeing is through a club or a training centre. There are thousands of these around the country.

For general advice and a list of clubs affiliated to British Canoe Union, contact the BCU in Nottingham (tel: 0115-982 1100).

Annual BCU membership costs £16.50 for adults and £10 for under-18s. The BCU can provide leaflets with the dates and prices of introductory courses. Basic weekend introductory courses start at about £60. Club membership varies, but can cost around £45 for a club that has canoes available (buying is expensive). Some clubs also hold open

days and introductory evenings free or at minimal charge.

Such events will introduce you to the sport and enable you to choose a discipline, which in addition to the sprints and marathons on flat-water, are as varied as slalom, wildwater (like downhill), sea kayaking, rodeo (trick canoeing) and even canoe-surfing and canoe-sailing.

If you continue with the sport, you will want to buy your own clothes and equipment, such as windproof jacket and buoyancy aid.

If you want to enter the Devizes to Westminster race, it would be a good idea to start training soon for next Easter. At least make sure to get on the water during the summer.

because capsizing in August is much less uncomfortable than in December.

You should certainly attend some of the Waterside and Thameside series, each between 15 and 35 miles long, which are staged fortnightly on Sundays in the run-up to the main event. They are held on different stretches of the course so that paddlers can get an idea of the marathon in advance.

Details and application forms for the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Race can be obtained from the Committee at Boscombe Forge, Church Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH2 3TG, or phone 01202 8266. Entry fees are between £60 and £70 for a double boat and £35 for a single.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This is an amusing incident (not so amusing for West) from the BBL Premier League match between Price and Ash.

Dealer West Game all IMPs

♦A7543  
▼A85  
♦J53  
♦83  
♦2  
▼QJ  
♦K1074  
♦QJ10954

106  
▼K10972  
♦AQ986  
♦K

♦KQJ98  
▼843  
+2  
♦A762

W N E S  
Ash Pass 3C (2) Tournament Pass 4S Farmer 2H (1) All Pass Mossop 2S

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: queen of hearts

(1) Showing a weak hand with at least five-four in hearts and a minor. (2) To play in partner's minor.

David Mossop ducked the first heart, won the second and drew two rounds of trumps, West discarding the queen of clubs. Nothing wrong with that — signalling with the top of a sequence when you can afford it is one of the best ways of briefing partner about the hand. Had East held A762 in clubs, he would have been grateful to learn that he should rise with the ace when declarer played a club from dummy.

Things went wrong for West when Mossop got off lead with

a diamond. The defence should have arranged for East to win this trick of course, but somehow West took it. West continued with the jack of clubs, disastrously crashing partner's king. Mossop won, played a second club to West's nine, ruffed the diamond return, and ran the six of clubs, taking a ruffing finesse against the ten.

After this misadventure, West's defensive signals will probably be much less generous (and less clear) for quite some time.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

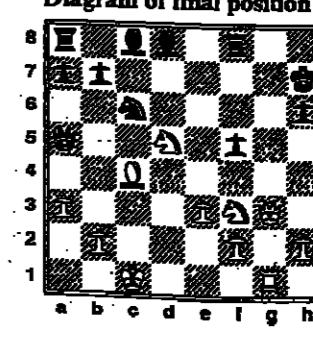
## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 Nf6  
2 Nf3 e6  
3 Nc3 d5  
4 d4 Be7  
5 Bf4 0-0  
6 e3 Bc5  
7 Nf5 Nc6  
8 Qc2 Be7  
9 a3 Qd5  
10 0-0-0 d4  
11 g4 dxc4  
12 Bxg4 e5  
13 g5 exd4  
14 g6 Bb6  
15 Nf5 Bb8  
16 Rhg1 h4  
17 Qe4 Kf8  
18 Rg7+ Kf7  
19 Qxh4 Kg7  
20 Rg1+ Kf7  
21 Qg3 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



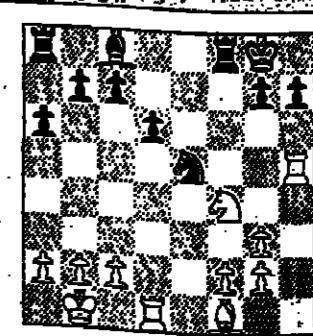
If 18 ... Kxg7 19 Rg1+ Bg5 20 Nhg5 hxg5 21 Rg5+ Kh6 22 Kf5 Kxh5 23 Qh7+ Kg4 24 Be2 E3 25 Nf6- Kg5 26 Ne4- Kg4 27 h3 checkmate.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Savchenko — Paromov, USSR 1963. Although queens have been exchanged, White's lead in development still allows him to bring off a winning combination. Can you see it?



Answers on page 45

Solution on page 45

## Validity issue not raised before ombudsman

Hamar and Another v Pensions Ombudsman and Another

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Millett  
Judgment March 18

Where the validity of an application by a deferred pensioner to transfer his accrued rights from one pension scheme to another was not raised by the trustees of the scheme at the hearing of a complaint before the Pensions Ombudsman, the trustees were precluded from raising the matter on an appeal to the High Court under section 15(4) of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

The Court of Appeal so stated, inter alia, allowing an appeal by the complainant, John Michael French, from the decision of Mr Justice Collins made on October 20, 1995, whereby he allowed the appeal of the trustees, Christopher James Hamar and Lockville Trustees Ltd, from the decision of the Pensions Ombudsman.

In June 1992 the complainant complained to the ombudsman that he had suffered injustice because of maladministration by the trustees who had failed to pay the transfer value of his accrued pension rights under a small self-administered occupational pension scheme established by Zengrange Ltd for the benefit of its employees to another scheme, Greelite Ltd, Executive Pensions Fund. The ombudsman upheld his complaint.

The complainant was the managing director of Zengrange Ltd and, as such, an employee member of the scheme until his dismissal on May 30, 1989. He was also a trustee until his removal from the trusteeship on September 13, 1989.

On learning that he had been removed as a trustee, he wrote a letter dated October 15, 1990 to the trustees formally requiring them

to transfer his entitlement to another scheme, details of which shall be advised in due course.

He received no reply and wrote again on August 24, 1991 repeating his requirement and identifying the other scheme as "the Greelite Ltd Executive Pensions Fund". The letter indicated that the scheme was then still in the course of preparation, but it was established a week or two later. Inland Revenue approval was obtained on April 10, 1992.

Mr Mark Herbert, QC, who did not appear below, for the complainant: Mr Christopher Nugent for the trustees.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said that the judge set aside the order of the ombudsman on the ground that the complainant had never made a valid application for the payment of his transfer value. The point was taken by the trustees for the first time in their appeal.

Counsel who then appeared for the complainant did not argue that the point was not open to the trustees, either because they were estopped from taking it or otherwise nor did he attempt to support either of the letters dated October 15, 1990 or August 24, 1991 as a valid exercise of his statutory rights.

His Lordship agreed with the judge that the complainant never made a valid application. The next issue was whether the trustees were estopped or otherwise excluded from challenging the validity of the application.

In his Lordship's judgment, it raised two distinct questions:

First, whether it was open to the trustees to waive the strict requirements of section 95 of the 1993 Act and treat an application which did not comply with them as if it did.

Second, if it was open to them to waive the statutory requirements, whether they did so, either by choosing not to rely on the non-compliance or by so conducting

themselves that it would be inequitable for them to rely on it.

Similar questions were considered by the House of Lords in *Kammink Ballrooms Co Ltd v Zenith Investments (Torquay) Ltd* [1971] AC 850 and by the Court of Appeal in *Daegan Properties Ltd v Mahoney* [1995] 2 EGLR 75.

In both cases the statutory language was mandatory and explicit; yet the parties were held to be liable to waive compliance with the express requirements of the statute because they were imposed for their protection.

By comparison with the statutory provisions under consideration in those cases, section 95 of the 1993 Act was a hybrid. Some of its provisions clearly could not be waived.

Those which restricted the use to which the transfer value could be applied, for example, were imposed as a matter of policy. They were not imposed for the benefit of the parties, and certainly not for the benefit of the trustees. They could not be waived.

Other requirements of section 95, however, were purely formal. The requirement that the application be made in writing, for example, was clearly imposed for the benefit of the trustees; it might be unwise of them to waive the requirement, but it would be absurd to hold that they could not do so if they chose.

In his Lordship's judgment, the trustees were entitled to treat the letter of August 24, 1991 as a valid application even if it was premature. The same was true of the letter of October 15, 1990 even if it did not exercise the option conferred by section 95 without sufficient particularity and did not tell the trustees what they were to do.

The matter could be tested by considering the various functions which the application under section 95 served. In his Lordship's judgment, the trustees could prop-

erly waive the want of particularity in the letter of October 15 and treat it as a lawful exercise of the option conferred by the section.

Equally, they could properly accept the letter as fixing the date by reference to which the value of the transfer payment was to be ascertained. No question of public policy would be involved. And if, as his Lordship would hold, the trustees might waive formal defects in the application such as want of particularity, then they might accept a defective application as valid to fix the date for ascertaining the value of the transfer payment.

His Lordship was of the opinion that the trustees did implicitly accept the letter of October 15 as a valid application with which they were bound to comply, while at the same time maintaining their right to defer actual payment until the property [the main asset of the scheme] could be sold. They never rescinded from that position. Had they done so at any time before the complainant made his final determination, he would have had to decide whether they should be allowed to do so.

In his Lordship's view, the ombudsman could not have been entitled if he had refused to allow the trustees to challenge the validity of the application in the course of their reply to his provisional determination.

But it did not matter whether they could have been precluded from disputing the validity of the application before the ombudsman, for they never did. It was plainly too late for them to do so for the first time in their appeal from the final determination of the ombudsman.

The objection to raising the matter for the first time on appeal had, in his Lordship's opinion nothing to do with estoppel, waiver or election.

It arose from the nature of legal

such as to justify fully what it had done. Until the defendant was in a position to ascertain the facts and disprove that he was not entitled to believe that he had been wrongfully defamed.

Now that the whole question of the bank's discolouring of the cheques and debit instructions and the justification for it and the damage to Mr Rogers and his business was going to be before the court, there was no adequate reason why if part of what he was entitled to complain of amounted to the tort of libel he should not be allowed to include claims under that head as well.

The bank had not been precluded by the lapse of time. No sufficient grounds had been shown for interfering with the judge's exercise of his discretion.

On that basis, in spring 1993 the defendant had served an amended defence and counterclaim, asserting that the bank had wrongfully discoloured his cheques and wrongly made statements that his accounts contained insufficient funds, amounting to breach of contract and libel. Leave to amend was required and application was made in August 1994.

By that time more than three years had passed, exceeding the three-year limitation period in a claim for libel, although not the six-year period laid down for contract actions. The defendant therefore relied on section 35 and Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson agreed.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that in 99.9 per cent of libel cases the approach advocated by Mr Eady, relying on *Grofit v Donoghue* (unreported, October 28, 1993) and *Oyston v Blaker* [1996] 1 WLR 1326, was correct. Those who alleged they had been defamed should seek the vindication of their reputation as speedily as possible, and the relative speed or delay of their proceedings was of no consequence by which the genuineness of their complaint might be judged.

However, this was plainly the thousandth case. Here the libel claim mirrored the existing contract claim that there would in any event be litigated the all important factual issue, the state of the defendant's account. Here too, for that very reason, there was no overall delay in the commencement of proceedings, nor any overall lengthening of their course by the amendment.

The defendant had hardly been truly in seeking to vindicate his reputation. He did not know realistically whether or not he had been libelled until he knew the true state of his account. Although technically he knew he had been libelled as soon as his cheques were returned, any successful claim had to include the assertion that the cheques should have been met because there were funds or agreed facilities available in reality, the claim and the defence were one.

Solicitors: Foot &amp; Bowden, Plymouth: Alison Trent &amp; Co.

The instant case was unusual. When the defamatory statements were made the bank was asserting that the state of the accounts was

proceedings and the appellate process: in ordinary litigation the issues were defined by the pleadings. They could not be amended after trial to raise new issues not opened on the pleading below.

The general principle was that the mere failure to raise a defence did not amount to a representation that it would not be raised at the proper time; but if it was not raised when the time came to raise it, it was treated as waived: see *Gratten v Ingley* [1948] 1 Exch 651, 657.

Investigations by the Pensions Ombudsman were informal. There were no pleadings. The issues were defined by the complaint and the response to it. The jurisdiction of the ombudsman was limited to the investigation of the complaint actually made to him.

At the end of his investigation, his duty was to determine the matters then actually in dispute between the parties. If he correctly applied the law to the facts found or not in dispute, he made no error of law.

Neither the validity of the letter of October 15, 1990 nor the trustees' obligation to comply with it when they could do so without detriment to the members of the scheme was ever in dispute.

Appeal from the determination of the Pensions Ombudsman lay to the High Court but on a question of law only. His Lordship was at a loss to know what error of law was made by the ombudsman.

In his Lordship's view, the ombudsman was entitled to treat the letter of October 15, 1990 as valid as far as the date of his final determination, out of the assets subject to the trusts of the scheme, his Lordship would restore the decision of the ombudsman.

His Lordship would so regard it but the analogy was close. The judge was wrong to find that the ombudsman made an error in law in treating the letter as valid

specimen with one of blood or urine.

The justices had found that the police should have waited until the defendant had spoken to a solicitor before asking him whether he wished to replace the specimen, and they excluded the evidence of the breath specimen under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

It was clear from *DPP v Billington* [1998] RTR 231 that the right to consult a solicitor, under section 58 of the 1984 Act, did not apply when a motorist was required to provide a specimen of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The defendant, having provided a breath specimen which contained less than 50 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, had declined to exercise his right under section 82 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to replace the

specimen with one of blood or urine.

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LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the defendant, having provided a breath specimen which contained less than 50 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath, had declined to exercise his right under section 82 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to replace the

specimen with one of blood or urine.

The appeal was concerned with the disposal of the debt except as defined in section 82 above.

Section 82(3)(b) defines security as including "any loan stock or similar security ... of any company, and whether secured or unsecured."

The provisions are now contained in the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

Mr Graham Aaronson, QC and Mr Anthony de Gars Robinson for the taxpayer company; Mr Launcoll Henderson, QC, for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that the general policy underlying section 134(1) was described by Lord Justice Templeman in *Ramsay (W.T.) Ltd v IRC* [1979] 1 WLR 974, 982-3 as constituting a coherent system of capital gains taxation by excluding "dispositions of debts by owners" where the dispositions do not give rise to gains but to include dispositions of debts in the form of investments which may result in gains or losses in the same way as dispositions of other investments.

The appeal was concerned with the loan in US dollars by the taxpayer company to its wholly owned Californian subsidiary for the purchase of three properties in Santa Clara. The documentary

specimen with one of blood or urine.

The terms and context of the loan were such that it was unlikely that the benefit of the loan would be dealt in or marketed. The commissioners were right to attach importance to the impermanent nature of the loan and right in their main conclusion.

Solicitors: William Sturges &amp; Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

## Currency losses not allowable

Taylor Clark International Ltd v Lewis (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker  
Judgment March 7

Losses caused by fluctuating currency rates from the repayment of a secured, interest-bearing, loan made to an overseas company by its United Kingdom parent company to finance a property development project did not give rise to a loss for capital gains tax.

The lender's right to repayment of the loan was not a "debt on a security" within the meaning of section 134 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 so that the losses were not allowable in computing liability in respect of chargeable gains.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by the taxpayer company, Taylor Clark International Ltd, from a determination of special commissioners (Mr T. H. K. Everett, Mr Stephen Oliver, QC and Mr M. Corwell-Kelly) that losses sustained during the accounting period to March 1992 were not in respect of a debt on a security and were therefore not allowable losses.

Section 29 of the 1979 Act provides: "(2) ... all the provisions of this Act which distinguish gains which are chargeable gains from those which are not shall also apply to distinguish losses which are allowable losses from those which are not." Section 134 provides: "(1) Where a person incurs a debt to another ... on a disposal of the debt except in the case of the debt on a security as defined in section 82 above."

Section 82(3)(b) defines security as including "any loan stock or similar security ... of any company, and whether secured or unsecured."

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The terms and context of the loan were such that it was unlikely that the benefit of the loan would be dealt in or marketed. The commissioners were right to attach importance to the impermanent nature of the loan and right in their main conclusion.

Solicitors: William Sturges &amp; Co; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

The instant case was one of a secure, interest-bearing intra-group loan to finance a particular project.

The terms and context of the loan were such that it was unlikely that the benefit of the loan would be dealt in or marketed. The commissioners were right to attach importance to the impermanent nature of the loan and right in their main conclusion.

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# Virgin flights to Jo'burg worth £80,000 to be won

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*The Times*, in association with Virgin Atlantic, gives you and a partner the chance to win return flights on Virgin's service direct from London to Johannesburg, daily from July 15, 1997. We have 51 pairs of return tickets worth a total of £80,000 to give away.

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department. All flights offered will be on a confirmed basis. Telephone numbers and office hours will be supplied. 10. Ten working days booking notice will be required. 11. All runners-up will be responsible for their own requirements, passport and insurance. 12. Once a booking has been confirmed no changes are permitted. If a booking is cancelled no alternative tickets will be issued. 13. Prize winners will abide by and be subject to Virgin Atlantic's published terms and conditions of carriage which are available from any Virgin Atlantic office. 14. Once tickets have been issued Virgin Atlantic shall not be liable for any failure to comply with its obligations caused by weather conditions, fire, flood, strike, hurricane, industrial dispute, war, hostilities, political unrest, riots, civil commotion, inevitable accidents, acts of God or any other circumstance amounting to Force Majeure. 15. Only original tokens and entry forms permitted. Photocopies are not acceptable. 16. The judges' decision is final. Receipts of entries will not be acknowledged. 17. No Virgin Freeway miles will be awarded for travel under this promotion. 18. The prize tickets may not be used in conjunction with any third party. 19. Employees of News International Newspapers Ltd, Virgin Atlantic, their agents or any company associated with the competition are not eligible to enter the competition. 20. No purchase necessary. Airport tax, air passenger duty and security charges are not included in the prize and are payable by each passenger.

CHANGING TIMES



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We've got  
the Talking

Feb 10 1997

# Next to publish catalogue of healthy figures

**NEXT:** The success story from Britain's premier high street fashion retailer is set to continue with full-year figures on Wednesday. Judging by the Christmas trading statement, these figures should be fairly impressive, with pre-tax profits expected to grow almost 30 per cent from £125 million to £159 million. Earnings growth should be even stronger, with a 31 per cent increase pencilled in from 23.1p to 30.3p.

Sales of the group's retailing arm grew 24 per cent in the 24 weeks to January 1, bolstered by a 5 per cent increase in selling space. But, as David Jones, chief executive, is only too happy to point out, the real boost to sales came from Next Directory, which was up 26 per cent. The overall increase in group sales was 16 per cent.

According to NatWest Securities, costs have risen about 13 per cent, although gross margins will have grown 0.5 per cent. Shareholders are expected to be rewarded with a near-30 per cent rise in the payout from 11.75p to 15p net.

**P&O:** Full-year figures tomorrow, are likely to bear the scars of a £50 million to £60 million hit relating to its cross-Channel ferry operations. However, these write-offs are likely to be countered, in an

## COMPANIES

extent, by an improved contribution from its cruise and property development arms.

Overall, pre-tax profits are expected to be down about £30 million at £290 million with earnings per share showing an 11 per cent decline at 33.9p.

Brokers say the decline in profitability should prove short-lived as the benefits of restructuring filter through this year. These will include improved efficiency in both the container and, subject to regulatory approval, the ferry operations. In the current year the group also expects to complete the merger with Stena, the demerger of Bovis Homes, the withdrawal from bulk shipping and the proposed disposal of £500 million worth of property.

The payout is likely to be held at 30.5p.

**BLUE CIRCLE:** A stronger second-half performance is envisaged at home after the 21 per cent profit shortfall at Blue Circle Industries in the first six months.

The group's involvement in the three strongest cement markets in the world will bolster the overall profit, to be

unveiled today, by 11 per cent, from £273 million to £303 million, with earnings per share up from 21.4p to 23.6p. The dividend is expected to grow from 12.5p to 13.2p.

**INCHCAPE:** The measures taken by the new management and stronger performances from its core operations should mean that improved full-year figures are unveiled

tomorrow, by 11 per cent, from £273 million to £303 million, with earnings per share up from 21.4p to 23.6p. The dividend is expected to be 17 per cent ahead at £176.7 million compared with £151.6 million last time. Earnings will also have grown 16 per cent to 15.9p, but the payout is likely to show only a small increase to 9.7p compared with 9.5p last time.

Cost savings of £30 million were achieved in the first half with that figure growing to £54 million for the year, while US windows and doors will return to the black.

**REDLAND:** A disappointing performance across Europe will result in a downturn in pre-tax profits of almost a third to £252 million when the group reports on Thursday. Earnings per share are expected to drop from 30.6p to 21.3p, while it is hoped that the dividend will be pegged at 16.7p.

**TAYLOR WOODROW:** The gradual recovery in the housing market should provide the biggest thrust to the group's performance. Pre-tax profits tomorrow will be about £66.5

million compared with £53 million last time, while earnings per share are likely to be up from 8.9p to 11.3p. The contracting arm will have made efforts to break even after recent losses. The dividend should grow from 3p to 3.5p.

**BOOKER:** A sharp drop in profits is on the cards when the food distribution group reports full-year results tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to drop from £90.2 million to £27 million, after restructuring charges of £77 million. Earnings will drop from 26p to a loss of 5p in the wake of last year's rights issue and the increased number of new shares in issue. Brokers are hoping for a 3 per cent rise in the payout to 23.5p.

**MORGAN CRUCIBLE:** The expected downturn in growth during the second half failed to materialise and profits in the second six months are now expected to match those of the first. As a result, overall profits at the pre-tax level are expected to come out today at £98.5 million compared with £85.1 million last time. Earnings should be up from 25.1p to 28.3p while the payout is likely to be lifted from 13.8p to 14.5p.

MICHAEL CLARK



David Jones has seen the success of Next Directory give a boost to Next's sales

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

### Increase is forecast for US rates

THE key event for financial markets this week is the Federal Open Market Committee's meeting tomorrow amid widespread expectation that US interest rates will be raised. After last week's testimony to Congress by Alan Greenspan, Fed Chairman, in which he spoke of the strength of the economy and the importance of pre-emptive action against inflation, the markets believe that the Fed funds rate will be raised by 0.25 per cent.

Britain's economic agenda is fairly light. Interest rates will be centre stage on Wednesday when Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, hold their monthly discussion of monetary policy. The general expectation is that the Bank will again seek a quarter-point on base rates and that Mr Clarke will continue to say "no" right up until the election.

Today sees publication of final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product, expected to leave quarterly growth unchanged at 0.8 per cent and year-on-year growth unchanged at 2.7 per cent.

January figures for global visible trade are expected to show a deficit of £710 million on Wednesday, according to a consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, against December's £845 million shortfall. February non-European Union trade is predicted to show a deficit of £565 million, against January's £398 million shortfall.

In Europe, the most important figures will be Germany's March cost of living data, expected to show a modest drop in the annual inflation rate after an upward blip earlier this year. In January, the rate jumped to 1.8 per cent, from 1.4 per cent in December, before easing to 1.7 per cent in February. In France, figures on Friday are expected to show unemployment stuck at 12.7 per cent in February.

JANET BUSH

## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

### TODAY

Interviews: GR Holdings, Northern Leisure, Prodrive, Sainsbury's, Star Equipment, Finlays, Amey, Blue Circle Industries, Brammer, Capital & Regional Properties, Datrontech Group, EBC Gp, First Earth, Fortis, Ports, Global Gp, GKN Group, GVA, Wimpey, Morgan Crucible, Nestle-SNA, Newport Holdings, Nottingham Gp, Hedges, Omnicare, Paddington, Sanang Hedges, PPL Therapeutics, Scrutons, Seafield Resources, Serit, Severn Trent, Shire, Shire & Fisons, Tarmac, Tintagel Park, Tins, T&S Stores, Ulster TV, VCI, Waterford Wedgwood. Economic statistics: UK final GDP (Q4), UK balance of payments (Q4), Insee report on French economy.

### TOMORROW

Interviews: Allied London Properties, Burn Stewart Gp, CED Holdings, CEC, GEC, Scottish Metalforming, Pimlico Arcoselectric, William Balmi, Booker, Boston, Cattles, Fleming Mercantile, Hamleys, Hodder Headline, Holden Technology, Hunting, Kingsbury Group, London & Regional, London & Regional, Macfarlane Gp, Alfred McAlpine, Maristain, New Ireland Hedges, P&O, Quality Software Products, Realish, School, SIG, Singer & Friedlander, Sainsbury's, Tandy, Tandy, Waterford, Tudor, Vans, Gp, Whitman. Economic statistics: API weekly oil supply statistics.

### WEDNESDAY

Interviews: Barratt Developments, City Technology, McLechrie, MJ Gleeson Group, Provost Gp, FW Thorpe. Finlays: Avonside Group, Ben Bailey Construction, Biocompabilized Interpolymers, AEC Gp, British Standard, Bridon, British Fittings Gp, Caradon, Croda, International, Clinton Cards, Dawsongroup, Fortis, Fulmar, Garton Engineering, Hele, Hulme, Jelco Gp, Kynoch, Swan Hill Group, TLS, UK Safety, Unilever, Unicorn International, Walsallholme Rink. Economic statistics: UK global trade in goods (January), non-EU trade in goods (February).

### THURSDAY

Interviews: British Gifford Japan, DCS Gp, I. G. Farben Gp, Telford Park Estates. Finlays: Broclobank Gp, Foreign & Colonial, US Smaller, Hepworth, Meltek, MTL Instruments Gp, Norco Hedges, Redland, Rushmore, Wynne Gp, Slough Estates. Economic statistics: US weekly jobless claims report.

### FRIDAY

Bank holiday

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Racal Electronics, ED&F Man, Sell Newcastle United. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Pearson, Frost Group, Upton & Southern. The Observer: Buy Next. The Mail on Sunday: Buy BP, SEC Group, Stadium. Independent on Sunday: Buy Capital and Regional Properties, BTR, Tomkins. Sunday Business: Buy Iceland, Heywood Williams, Eurocamp.

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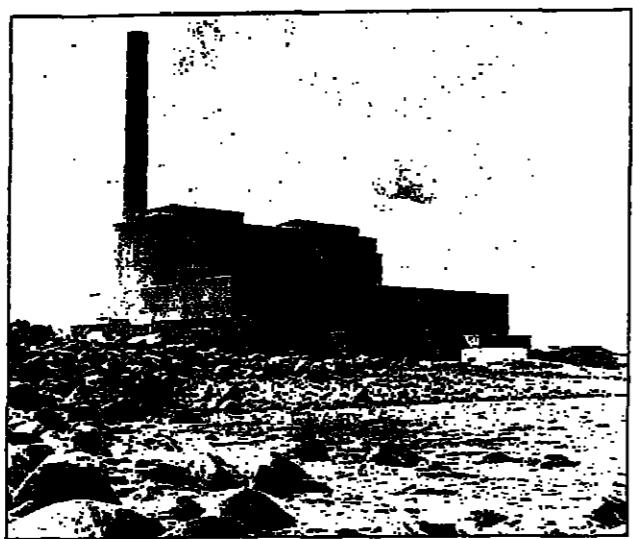
# Hydro-Electric and GA Direct test cross-selling

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A SHOT in the battle for household electricity consumers will be fired today when General Accident Direct, the insurance company, joins Hydro-Electric in an alliance that could lead to a national energy marketing vehicle.

The two Perth-based companies are linking — more than a year before the opening of the domestic market to competition — in an affinity trial to see whether customers of each company respond well to cross-marketing. If the trials of 40,000 homes nationwide prove successful, the two could strike an alliance that would be one of the first national marketing drives in energy.

Two groups of 20,000 homes will be sent a mailshot by Hydro-Electric and GA Direct. Hydro-Electric's letter will go to a cross-section of its customers in the north of Scotland promoting GA Direct and offering discounts on insurance. Interested customers would then have to approach GA Direct, rather than the electricity company. GA Direct's letter will target 20,000 of its customers in England and Wales giving information



Power from Hydro-Electric may be sold via GA Direct

about Hydro-Electric as an energy supplier. The insurance company will enclose an energy survey and the offer of entry into a prize draw for those homes that reply.

Dennis Barnes, Hydro-Electric's channels development manager, said: "This is an important first step for Hydro-Electric in advance of competition in the British electricity market. The choice of GA Direct as an affinity partner offers a mutually ben-

eficial opportunity which both companies are keen to grasp."

Many companies with big customer bases, such as mail order firms and insurers, are interested in the dawn of competition in electricity. However, with competition not due to start until next April, few have been willing to commit themselves to participate.

Hydro-Electric and GA will have response rates of their trial mailshots monitored by an independent company.

## Investors seek to recover \$14m

By JON ASHWORTH

FOURTEEN hundred German investors caught up in an alleged "advanced fee" fraud have launched an action in the High Court in London to try to recover more than \$14 million.

Gerhard Martens, a German national on remand in Exeter Prison, is named in the action, which relates to Operation Labis, an investigation by

are believed to have lost £100 million. The practice involves investors paying a large up-front fee for a line of credit that is never forthcoming.

The action, brought by three German investment clubs, is directed at Allgemeine Handels und Effekten Bank, a Delaware-registered company that was controlled by Herr Martens.

## Gokal trial jury to reconvene

Jurors in the Old Bailey trial of Abbas Gokal, former head of the Gulf Group, are to resume deliberations today. The jury retired on Friday after a summing-up by Mr Justice Buxton. The jurors were later sent home for the weekend.

Mr Gokal, 61, denies one count of false accounting and a second of conspiracy to defraud. He is alleged to have conspired with officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to falsify documents with a view to enabling BCCI secretly to send home for the weekend.

He is further alleged to have conspired with BCCI officials to create a financial structure designed to deceive Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor. The structure was allegedly controlled by, although not traceable to, the Gulf Group, and was designed to channel funds to Gulf from BCCI.

The court has heard that the Gulf was indebted to BCCI by \$1.2 billion. The jury was told that Mr Gokal fled to Pakistan in 1992, shortly before Swiss police raided his Geneva office. He was arrested in Frankfurt two years later, when his US-bound flight put down to refuel.

### Lloyd's case

The first in a series of hearings to address alleged fraud in Lloyd's of London is to resume in the High Court today. A number of names are refusing to pay funds owed under the Gulf's reconstruction plan, alleging that they were fraudulently induced to begin underwriting. Lloyd's says that they entered third-party agreements and are obliged to pay, whatever the outcome of future legal action.

### Sensor's £1m

Sensor Highway, an oil services company, is raising £1 million from 3i, the venture capital group, to fund new product development. The company was set up in 1995 to produce optical fibre sensors and optical processing systems to monitor conditions in oil and gas wells.

## Split the export and domestic cycles to contain inflation

The gilt market is understandably focused on the general election, but it may be more appropriate for it to consider the election of 2002. Why? First, because that result seems more uncertain.

Even allowing for a big forecasting error, the opinion polls indicate a clean sweep for Labour this time. Some will say the polls suggest a similar result in 1992 and were wrong. However, in spite of the Tories' eventual lead of more than 7.5 per cent in the popular vote in 1992, equal to about 2.5 million votes, they came within a whisker of losing their overall majority, a total of fewer than 2.5 million votes spread in the 11 closest contests would have done the trick for Labour. Furthermore, Labour's lead in the opinion polls is now far greater than in 1992.

It would therefore seem appropriate for the gilt market to discount the consequences of Labour winning. What is less likely is that they will be able to plan for two terms. Much of the first term will be spent establishing their credibility (given memories of policy mistakes in the 1970s). It will not be until the second term that the full impact of any major reforms will be felt.

A second reason to concentrate on the first election of next century is that, by then, a clearer picture of European Monetary Union should be available. The market's working assumption is that the UK will not be a full member of it until then. Hence the large yield premium on gilts over European bonds. However, if policy in the coming economic cycle delivers structural budget deficits and inflation that appear favourable by comparison with our European neighbours, any future entry by Britain will be from a position of strength.

This contrasts with the present position in which we are deemed to trail Europe on these criteria.

Although much progress has been made in reducing budget deficits and inflation, there is still much to do. UK inflation is still at an underlying trend rate higher than our European neighbours. According to estimates by BZW, the UK should have a 3 per cent trend rate by the end of this year. This compares with estimates of 1.7 per cent for Germany and 1.9 per cent for France. Only Italy, with 3.8 per cent, would exceed the UK.

The budget deficit position

looks better, although largely for cyclical, rather than structural, reasons. Securing a structural budget deficit that is low by UK standards and by those expected to prevail in Europe would also strengthen our position. How can this nirvana be achieved? Essentially by prolonging the economic growth cycle while containing inflation.

Inflation could be contained by decoupling the domestic cycle from the export cycle. In the past, the UK economy has overheated when export demand accelerated and this coincided with a

strong domestic economy. Given that we are a very open economy, the impact of export expansion is proportionately large. Attempts are already being made to stimulate economic growth in Europe, our closest trading area, and although these may have limited success in 1997, there is more likelihood that 1998 will see growth accelerate. Hence it becomes more important to ensure that the domestic economy is not soaring ahead then. The solution is to put the brakes on the domestic economy now. Higher interest rates

and tighter fiscal policy can do this. The bias should be towards the latter, to avoid unnecessary risks with export competitiveness. Too high a rise in interest rates could send sterling soaring, denting the export cycle just when domestic demand is being slowed down. Tighter fiscal policy may prove a more effective way of reducing domestic demand and may be speedier, cutting the budget deficit quite early in the new fiscal year.

Successful parting of the domestic and export cycles ought to cut medium-term inflation pressure, but could dent corporate earnings. So, this strategy is likely to have a more favourable response from the gilt market than the equity market. However, applying the brakes early in the new electoral cycle should help to narrow the spread of UK gilt yields over German bonds; we would not be surprised to see it down to 100bp this year. It would also help to ensure that the next economic recovery coincides with the next election. Labour strategists savouring a big majority could be forgiven for fine-tuning their medium-term plans.

MICHAEL HUGHES  
BZW

### ALTERNATIVE

## Medusa valuation expected to be £13m

MEDUSA PETROLEUM, a new oil and gas company, is to join the Alternative Investment Market next month at an expected value of £13 million (Fraser Nelson writes). The company, which owns

what were formerly the two Czech subsidiaries of Tullow Oil, is raising £8 million through a placing of 11.5 million shares at 50p. Medusa, which also has exploration interests in Ireland and

income and higher exploration costs. It expects to start drilling oil by mid-1998.

The fall in the main market dragged the FT-SE AIM index down by 18.4 points last week, to close at 1,109.10.

1996/97 High Low Mid cap (million) Price per share Wkly % P/E

1996/97 High Low Mid cap (million) Price per share Wkly % P/E

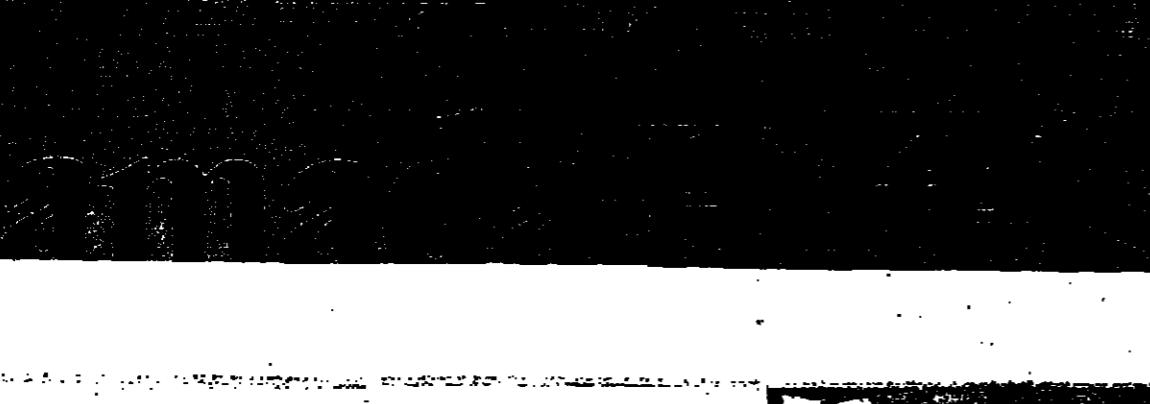
1996/97 High Low Mid cap (million) Price per share Wkly % P/E

1996/97 High Low Mid cap (million) Price per share Wkly % P/E

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1996/97	High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price per share	Wkly %	YTD %	P/E
150	100	112	45.50 Searns	12.5	-5	11.0	10
155	105	21.60 AMCO Corp	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
155	57	5.50 Amoco Corp	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
167	95	5.64 Amoco Corp	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
155	95	21.50 Arco Plus	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
161	45	8.50 Arco Intergp	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
20	7	26.00 Arco Intergp	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
117	7	48.10 Arco Gold	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
45	13	14.20 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
50	25	12.50 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
24	15	12.50 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
111	107	3.10 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
52	35	49.10 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
125	85	49.10 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
149	120	22.70 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
105	100	10.20 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
115	27	1.65 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
215	55	1.65 Arcofus & Ed	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
64	12	43.50 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
68	47	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
4	2	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
1	2	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
21	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
22	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
23	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
24	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
25	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
26	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
27	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
28	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
29	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
30	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
31	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
32	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
33	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
34	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
35	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
36	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
37	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
38	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
39	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
40	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
41	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
42	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
43	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
44	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10
45	16	1.20 BATMA Adv Cosm	12.5	-1	-1	11.0	10

In a survey, 80 per cent of respondents said that they would be unaffected if the price of *The Times* were to increase by 10p. In another survey, 72 per cent of British manufacturers said they could cope with the strong pound. These are fictitious, though plausible, survey results, but they share something in common with a real survey on the subject of the minimum wage published last week by Reed Personnel Services. They each have next to no bearing on the issue at hand.

The Reed survey revealed that "79 per cent of organisations would be unaffected by a national minimum wage of £3.25 an hour". So that's all right then. But what does "unaffected" mean? Would they be unaffected because next to nobody in their employ earned less than £3.25 an hour anyway? Was Goldman Sachs a respondent? It might say that it would be unaffected at ten times that rate. Or did they mean that their

businesses would be unaffected because although their wage bills would rise, so would their competitors; so they could all raise their prices. In that case, their businesses *might* be unaffected, but their customers would not.

Surely the whole point of the minimum wage is that it should affect *something*, namely the wages of people at the bottom end of the income scale. And to imagine that it is possible to engineer such an effect without affecting something else is the economics of the Sunday school.

So the focus should be on those businesses that *would* be affected by a minimum wage. How would they react? Would any adverse consequences offset the gain to those enjoying increased incomes? At its simplest, who pays? Of course, those who support

the minimum wage hope that the gains to low wage earners would accrue at the expense of profits which, in the spirit of *1066 And All That*, are "A Bad Thing". But the danger is that those businesses that are sensitive to the minimum wage will respond by cutting jobs. In that case, those at the bottom of the income distribution who kept their jobs would have gained at the expense of others, also at the bottom, who would have lost.

The scale of such an effect depends crucially on the level at which the minimum is set. It would be possible to use the imposition of a minimum wage at a low level to make a grand social statement of values without doing much direct economic harm. But once the minimum was established, it would pose serious dangers for the future — and



ROGER BOOTLE

precisely because of the nature of the social statement. It is essential to say that prices (in this case, the price of labour) are part of the world of justice and fairness and not simply the signalling mechanism that makes the market system work. It is a harkback to the medieval concept of "the just

price". It overrides three sorts of variation that the flexibility of the free market would exploit: the difference in the market worth of different individuals; the change in the market value of labour over time; and the regional variation in the market value of labour.

Is there nothing for it? There are two reasonable economic arguments. The first is deliciously ironic. In some circumstances, the imposition of a minimum wage will actually create jobs as employers will no longer be faced with the danger of bidding up the price of labour against themselves. (Yes, I know this is difficult to follow, but economics textbooks are full of things like this. Any real-world examples on a postcard to me, please.)

The second is that in some cases, whether because of physical isolation or ignorance of local workers think that they have little choice but to work for a single employer who takes full advantage of this to the direct benefit of profit. In other words, the competitive labour market does not work. There are some cases of this sort and there were surely far more in the past. But imposing a national minimum wage to tackle this would be like taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

One of the worst arguments for the minimum wage is that other countries have one. How much damage they suffer as a result

varies with the level. In France, a relatively high minimum has probably made a material contribution to the high level of unemployment.

In the US, the comparatively low level of the minimum has left little impact on the labour market. But the recent increase from \$4.25 to \$4.75 an hour is starting to have an impact on the level of labour costs, and this may have implications for inflation and interest rates.

The minimum wage belongs to the God, Motherhood and Apple Pie School of Economics. Good intentions are supposed to conquer all. The reality is sadly different. Those of us who worry about the implications are left hoping that if a minimum wage is imposed, it would be set so low as to have only totemic significance. But this would leave something of a problem of presentation for the politicians. Imagine the rallying call: "Support the minimum wage. It leaves everything unaffected!"

## Billions of excise duty at risk in Euro-court tussle

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS

BILLIONS of pounds of income from excise duty are at risk if the Government loses a case now being considered by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg.

A company that imported cigarettes from Luxembourg, where they are 40 per cent cheaper, without paying UK excise duty is challenging the UK in the court.

The *Enlightened Tobacco Company* argues it was acting as an "agent" for private individuals when it imported cigarettes, paying excise duty only in the country of origin. It claims its activities were legal under a 1992 EU directive on the movement of goods subject to duty. The Government says

the operation was an abuse of allowances designed to enable travellers to import up to 800 cigarettes at one time, paying duty in the country of origin.

Most member states are behind the UK. The European Commission said the question of who transported the items was a side issue but the company was still in breach of the directive because its operation was a commercial not private one and, therefore, excise duty was payable in country of destination.

BJ Cunningham, director of the company, set up the scheme in November 1994 when he found it difficult to distribute the company's own brand of Death cigarettes

through traditional channels. Clients would place orders with a subsidiary in the UK called the Man in Black, trading as Tobacco Direct, which would transfer them to another subsidiary in Luxembourg called EMU Sarl, which would purchase the cigarettes and send them to the clients' homes.

In its last month of trading the company recorded £250,000 in turnover and had more than 3,000 active clients. Customs and Excise seized the company's consignments almost immediately it began the scheme. The *Enlightened Tobacco Company* took the Customs and Excise to the High Court in May 1995 and lost. It went to the Court of Appeal, which immediately referred the case to the Luxembourg court.

Mr Cunningham insists he was acting legally. "In law we are 100 per cent correct. Europe means the freedom of movement of goods and people. I do not see why my tax should be going to the Government. I do not see why I can't shop abroad and get the same benefits as other Europeans."

Imperial Tobacco, which intervened in the case on the side of the UK, says that £10 billion of government revenue from value-added tax and excise duty on tobacco is at stake.

The Attorney-General will deliver his opinion on April 17, which will be influential when the court makes its final ruling by September.

## UK companies told to prepare for EMU

BY GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

BRITISH companies must prepare now for Europe's monetary union even if the UK stays out, a report from the 100 Group of finance directors argues.

The group, in conjunction with KPMG, the accountant, found that apart from obvious money and cash implications, the move would lead to costly changes in anything from retail pack sizes to sources of corporate finance.

Few UK firms expect the

UK to be in the first wave of countries set to start monetary union in 1999. But it could be in a second wave that would introduce the euro in cash payments in 2002. The report says the period of changeover, when the euro and sterling would both be in circulation, would be particularly troublesome. *The Single European Currency: a practical guide*. (Ref number 5631) £25 from KPMG. Phone 01923-214807.



The launch of a weekly version of *Lloyd's List* in Japanese is marked by a team of executives from LLP, the title's publisher, from left, David Gilbertson, Michael Gray, John Quilter and Bob James, with translator Takashi Furukawa

## Firms relaxed over outcome of election

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A HUGE majority of UK businesses feel that a change of government would either make no difference to their prospects or that they would be more successful if the government changed, according to a Reed Personnel Services survey.

The recruitment specialist surveyed 748 organisations and found that 63 per cent said that a change of government would make no difference. 15 per cent felt that they would be more successful under Labour, with only 18

per cent fearing worsened prospects.

According to the Institute of Management, only 40 per cent of company managers say they back the Tories, down from 62 per cent at the last election.

A Centre for Economics and Business Research report says the UK is set for at least two more years of steady growth, whoever wins the election. It forecasts growth above 3 per cent this year and next and unemployment falling below 1.5 million by the end of 1998.

## Aerospace industry seeks more state aid

BY OLIVER AUGUST

THE aerospace industry has challenged the next government to grant an extra £100 million a year for research and development. Directors of the main aerospace companies fear that without state aid Britain will suffer a damaging setback in international competitiveness.

The Society of British Aerospace Companies has launched an initiative called *Forward Action*, which sets out specific uses for the government funds. The SBAC

said: "This programme is urgently required. Without government support, *Forward Action* will not be of a sufficient scale to make a difference to future performance and the decline will continue."

The Ministry of Defence has agreed to an extra £20 million research grant for the aerospace industry for 1997. The Department of Trade and Industry was also approached by the SBAC but so far has made no pledge.

## Hermes advice

Hermes Investment Management, the pension fund manager, says it will normally support companies against hostile bids, but there should be at least three fully independent non-executive directors.

## Bass file due

A Monopolies Commission report on the takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley by Bass is expected at the Department of Trade and Industry today. Bass fears tough conditions will be imposed, but yesterday denied it would scrap the deal.

## The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of this Society will be held at The London Arena, 36 Limehouse, London E14 9TH at 11.00am on 18 April 1997 to consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:

### Special Resolution THAT:

(a) the flotation proposal summarised in the circular to policyholders of the Society dated 20 March 1997 and set out in the documents referred to at the end of section 6 of Part 7 of it (together called the "Documents") be approved. The Directors of the Society shall be authorised to take all such action as they consider necessary to carry the flotation proposal into effect and, in particular,

(1) the terms of the schemes under which the long term insurance business of the Society is to be transferred in accordance with the arrangements set out in the Documents be approved, subject to such modifications, or additions, to any of them as are made in accordance with their terms; and

(2) the class set out in the Documents upon which ordinary shares in the capital of Norwich Union plc are to be issued or conditionally allotted be approved, subject to such modifications or additions (if any) to such class as are made in accordance with the terms of the Documents.

(3) by the addition of a new Article 87 in the following form:

"If the Society shall be wound up, the liquidator shall, with the sanction of an extraordinary resolution of the Society and subject to any other condition or direction received from the court, demand from the members of the Society such of its assets as are available for distribution as such manner as the extraordinary resolution shall prescribe."

(4) subject to the Scheme becoming effective and the ordinary shares of Norwich Union plc being admitted to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange:

(i) the Society be re-registered as a company limited by shares pursuant to section 51 of the Companies Act 1985 with an authorised share capital of 100 shares of £1 each, all of which shall be issued to Norwich Union Life & Pensions Limited on such terms as the Directors of the Society may determine;

(ii) the name of the Society be changed to The Norwich Union Life Insurance Company Limited; and

(iii) the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society be amended so as to be in the form stated at the meeting and ratified by the Chairman for the purposes of identification.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD  
Graham Jones, Secretary  
8 Surrey Street  
Norwich NR1 3NG  
24 March 1997

For further shares to the public share subscription offer which will be made to raise the capital required to implement the proposals.

Further information relating to the proposals (including the circular referred to in the Special Resolution set out above) and to the meeting has been made available, together with voting forms. Applications for shares to be received in the reply envelope or by post to Norwich Union Secretaries, P.O. Box 104, London E1 1SL, Great Britain or by fax to Norwich Union Secretaries, Marshall Lane, Croydon, CR1 5PA, Great Britain. Members who require further information (or who do not receive the mailing) are invited to telephone 0815 444818 (or phoning from the UK or +44 815 444818 (or phoning from outside the UK).

## DIRECT Savings

### RATES OF INTEREST

Effective from 2-3rd March 1997

	Gross % p.a.	Net equiv. % p.a.
<b>Direct Premium Account</b>		
Annual interest	4.80	3.84
£10,000 - £24,999	5.10	4.08
£25,000 +	5.35	4.28
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
£10,000 - £24,999	4.95	3.96
£25,000 +	5.15	4.12
<b>Direct 80 Account</b> (no longer available to new customers)		
Annual interest	5.60	4.48
£10,000 - £24,999	6.05	4.84
£25,000 +	6.55	4.52
<b>Direct Notice Account</b>		
Annual interest	5.10	4.08
£10,000 - £24,999	5.45	4.36
£25,000 +	5.65	4.52
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
£10,000 - £24,999	5.25	4.20
£25,000 +	5.45	4.36
<b>Direct 80 Account</b> (no longer available to new customers)		
Annual interest	5.60	4.48
£10,000 - £24,999	6.05	4.84
£25,000 - £49,999	6.30	5.04
£50,000 +	6.55	5.24
<b>Annual interest</b>		
£15,000 - £29,999	6.20	4.98
£30,000 - £49,999	6.60	5.28
£50,000 +	6.70	5.36
<b>Monthly Income</b>		
£15,000 - £29,999	6.00	4.80
£30,000 - £49,999	6.40	5.12
£50,000 +	6.50	5.20
<b>Direct 90 Account</b> (no longer available to new customers)		
Annual interest	6.20	4.98
£15,000 - £29,999	6.60	5.28
£30,000 - £49,999	6.70	5.36
<b>Direct Preference TESSA</b> (closed now)		
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\*Includes bonus of 0.60% gross p.a.

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# Why Britain cannot afford to ditch Tory revolution



**William Waldegrave**  
believes our children will weep if Labour is returned to power and Britain turns away from the future

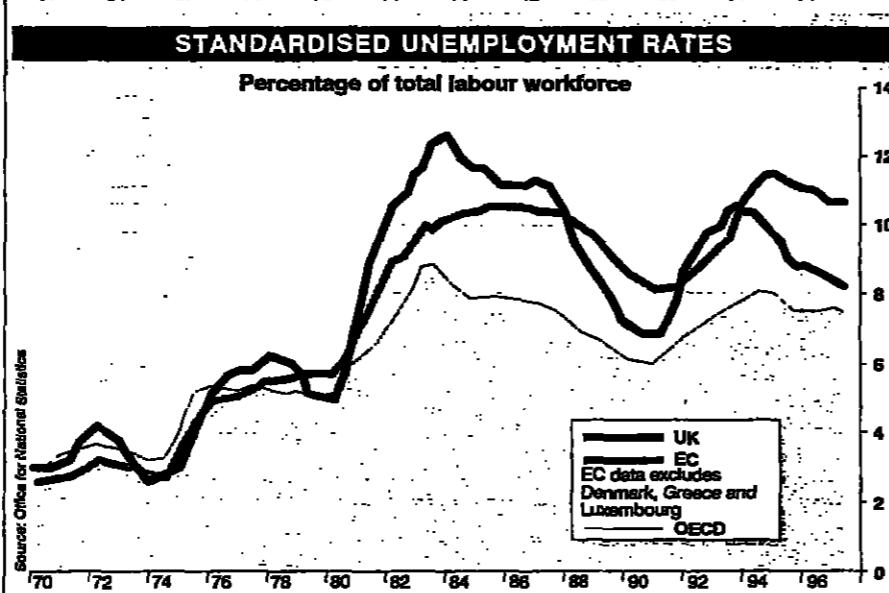
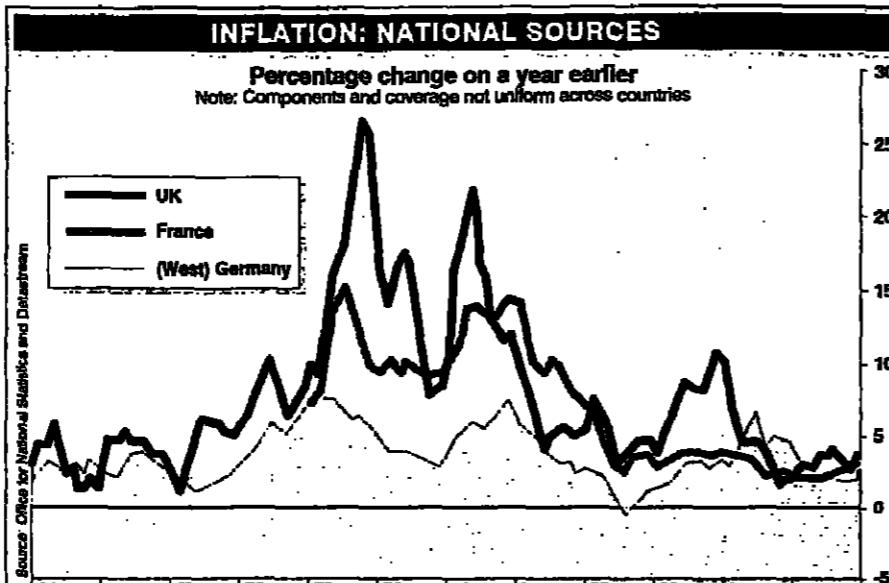
In the mid-1970s Britain seemed set on an inexorable course towards economic, political and social collapse. Serious people predicted revolution and the collapse of our institutions. Militant unions brought down one Government and held another to ransom. The fashionable question was "Is Britain governable?" — and the fashionable answer was "no".

The mood was encapsulated by Peter Jay, who was then economics editor of *The Times*. In his Winchott Memorial Lecture in December 1975 he predicted that present arrangements would lead inexorably to anarchy followed by a "strongman". Britain was to go the way of Italy in the 1920s and Germany in the 1930s.

Underlying the panic lay some hard and desperate numbers, to which Peter Jay had directed the attention of the nation in a series of articles earlier in the year. In his piece "Tour des cycles" of May 1975 he summarised the economic helter-skelter ride to ruin down which Britain was sliding. In every downturn of the economy, our unemployment was getting worse than in the previous trough. In every recovery, our inflation peaked higher — and thereby led on to each unemployment trough being deeper than the last. In a worsening see-saw, alternately the nation's savings and the nation's jobs were being progressively destroyed.

And then came 1979 and the Conservatives. To be perfectly fair, Peter Jay and perhaps, through his influence, his then father-in-law, the Prime Minister, James Callaghan, began themselves to contribute to the revolution of ideas that led to the Conservative victory. The then economics editor of *The Times* not only analysed the causes of the crisis, but contributed to the shift of economic and political paradigm that solved it.

Because solve it the Conservatives did. The first chart is irrefutable evidence of that historic fact — which ensures a place in history for Lady Thatcher, Lord Howe and Lord Lawson, but no less for John Major. Chris



Patent and Ken Clarke. As confirmed by the European-wide figures out earlier this month, Britain has rejoined the low inflation pack that we left in the 1960s — having had, over the previous 150 years, a record as good as any.

On unemployment (see chart two), our achievement has been even more astonishing, because we have not only reversed our upward trend, but we have done so at a time when France and Germany have failed to do the same in the face of the same problem. To put it another way, Britain has dealt with its long-term inflation problem at the same time as making a radical improvement in the long-term unemployment trend. We have, in economists' jargon, lowered our non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment (Nirau), at a time when others have failed to do so. This is what the Thatcher-Major Governments have done. Peter Jay did not exaggerate the impending collapse when he wrote in 1975. The

## Tour des cycles

The following table illustrates the 'Tour des cycles' of inflation in the UK. It shows the percentage change in the cost of living from the base year of 1960 to 1995, for various countries. The data is from the Office for National Statistics.

From *The Times* of May 8, 1975

Conservatives did save our country. It did hurt, but it has worked. It was not done just by getting macroeconomic policy right. Indeed, I believe that it was overconfidence in the efficacy of rival macroeconomic panaceas that bedevilled Britain in the 1960s and 1970s. It was done by changing the real economy. Here are just three more fundamental sta-

union leaders made investment decisions, we got the AGR, the SGHWR, the tilting train, Concorde and the system X telephone exchange. It would have been quicker to have made a larger pile of ESO notes and burnt them.

Now we have more modesty in Whitehall; and investment decisions in privatised industry aimed at securing a return for the shareholders by meeting customer needs.

Secondly, in industry more widely, the Thatcher-Major Governments returned authority to management with the result that the country with one of the worst strike records in the 1960s and 1970s now has one of the best.

The result of these and other fundamental supply side reforms (for example, a tax system designed to produce incentives, abolition of exchange controls, reform of Government bureaucracy, deregulation in telecommunications and financial services), taken together with the stabilisation of the economy —

tistics that show what happened in Britain in the 1990s. First we became one of the only countries in the industrialised world to achieve an improvement in the productivity of our capital. This was partly as a result of privatisation. When politicians, civil servants, nationalised industry bosses and

politicians have failed to do so. This is what the Thatcher-Major Governments have done. Peter Jay did not exaggerate the impending collapse when he wrote in 1975. The

was that Britain's relative decline stopped.

Over the last international cycle (that of 1982-93), only Japan among G7 countries outpaced the UK in terms of GDP per capita growth: we have grown faster than both France and Germany in each of the last four years, and we are set to beat them again, this year and next.

If we keep this progress going, if we do not let the trend reverse again, we will soon close the gap that opened after the Second World War. This is the future that must be protected. Of course, there have been mistakes. Of course, we have sometimes been blown off course. But the change of direction is clear.

We have, for once, led the way. Germany, in particular, will, I am sure, soon rediscover the liberal economic roots of her postwar miracle — as the US has already done — and free herself from the shackles that are at present holding her back. A good thing that will be for all of us. But for once Britain is ahead of the game. Partly because we got things even more wrong in the 1960s and 1970s than most, we were compelled to be the first to find our way back to sanity. But others will follow — indeed are following — though at present, it has to be said too many in Europe are still leading their people into the killing ground of ever-higher unemployment.

**S**o, faced with all this, what does Labour do? With its unparalleled skill in picking up the wrong ideas at the wrong time (CND members when the USSR was really dangerous in 1983 — belligerent nuclear warriors now that the Soviet Union has collapsed; great defenders of trade union barons when they held the country to ransom in the 1970s — jockeying to stand on the corpse now that the Conservatives have slain that dragon). Labour now wants to take us back into Social Democracy, circa 1980, in, say, Sweden. Social chapter, politicised pay bargaining, regional investment banks, special taxes on profitable industries, stakeholding pensions — the whole lot.

If Britain loses her nerve and goes back to all that, it will be hard to know whether to laugh or weep. But succeeding generations would know: they would know that Britain had turned away from the future; they would think we had lost our nerve just when the prize was within our grasp. Our children would see our grand refusal as tragic. Preventing that tragedy is the Conservatives' job in this general election.

□ **William Waldegrave, MP, is Chief Secretary to the Treasury**

From *The Times* of May 8, 1975

First we became one of the only countries in the industrialised world to achieve an improvement in the productivity of our capital. This was partly as a result of privatisation. When politicians, civil servants, nationalised industry bosses and

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY



### Styles to wear Ball's boots

DAVID STYLES will be playing in second-hand boots during tonight's football match in aid of the Romanian Orphanage Trust. The executive director at Goldman Sachs and captain of "The Street" — a team made up of City bond dealers — will be wearing a pair of boots that once belonged to Alan Ball, a member of England's 1966 World Cup-winning team and a former Everton midfielder. As a good luck gesture for the game against "Clients", a team of international money and pension managers, a fellow Everton supporter sent Styles the unusual white boots originally worn by Ball. "I used to have a similar pair

but, due to peer pressure, hardly wore them," Styles admits. "Unfortunately, Ball's pair are a size too small — they might cramp my style."

**MCVITIE'S** is cashing in on the National Lottery. On the basis that people splash out on a packet of crackers every eight weeks, and play the National Lottery at least once a week, the biscuit giant is launching an on-pack promotion to create the UK's first "crackers millionaire".

### Señor squad

TONY HALES, chief executive of Alified Domèc, is off to Spain, the beverage company's most important European market — but not to boost company sales. In tow will be 16 soccer-crazy young-

sters on tour to Torremolinos and Malaga to do battle with five local teams. For the past couple of years, Hales, a lifelong Aston Villa supporter, has been coaching Armscote Lyons FC, made up of bud-

ding Dwight Yorke from south Warwickshire, including his three sons. David, 14, is team captain; Michael and Robert, his 12-year-old twins, play in defence. Meanwhile, Mrs Hales is off to Tenerife, accompanied by their 18-year-old daughter.

### Grounded

MONEY men from Warburgs were left on the runway after a trip to America went awry. It was meant to be a jamboree to Florida, dressed up as a chance for the derivatives department to bond. But as it turned out, the flight was overbooked, and two thirds of the party were left waiting at the airport. Fed up with hanging around for the next flight, and determined not to be rerouted via Nova Scotia, an

irate group turned tail. Not such good news for Virgin, which was only recently hailed the merchant bank's preferred airline.

### Cup of woe

LET'S hope Global Group's prelims announced today, bring a smile to the chairman's face. Ken Manley, a devotee of the turf, took a rare day off recently to watch the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Runners and riders aside, it gave him a chance to see the food group's mobile catering karts in action. They did a record trade, but Manley was left out of pocket. "I've got a leg in Wimpey Wonder which I backed heavily at 66-1. Unfortunately the horse went down," Manley moans.

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## TELEVISION CHOICE

### Table talk and fine food



Albert Roux is guest chef (C4, 12.30pm)

#### Light Lunch

##### Channel 4, 12.30pm

Daytime television tends to have a less than flattering image, which is why each new daytime show tries to convince us that it is different. *Light Lunch* goes out live five days a week. The producer, Henketa Conrad, calls it "groundbreaking". But she would hardly admit that it was not. Presented by Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins, a stand-up comedy act, it is a sort of chat show round the lunch table. Each a day a different chef (today it is Albert Roux and his son Michel, but it could be a school dinner lady) prepares a meal for four to six guests. The provisional list of diners includes David Hasselhoff, Paula Yates, Roxie Wax and Ben Elton, but there will be non-celebrities as well. The chat takes place before a studio audience, with music from a resident band, and viewers will be able to participate by fax, phone or e-mail.

#### The Sci Files: Cyber War

##### BBC2, 7.30pm

Vanessa Collingridge's report about computer hacking may not say anything very new, but it certainly is frightening. The argument is simple. Computer technology has shrunk the planet, enabling the world to be connected up in a global Web. But putting all this information into cyberspace means that it is vulnerable to attack. According to one pundit, ten hackers could bring the American economy to a standstill. That's a frightening thought, especially when the experience is not realistic. During the Gulf War hundreds of American files were stolen by Dutch hackers and allegedly offered for sale to Saddam Hussein. In 1995 alone the Pentagon computers were hacked into a quarter of a million times. Nobody mentions the obvious answer, which is to stop storing sensitive information on computers. But that would be like giving up the motor car and going back to the stagecoach.

#### Cutting Edge: The Dinner Party

##### Channel 4, 9.00pm

This is a programme that has received so much advance publicity that you may feel you have seen it already. So let us start with the facts. Paul Watson, who made the acerbic *Sylvana Waters*, decided, with the general election approaching,

#### RADIO CHOICE

##### Up All Night

##### Radio 5 Live, 2.00am

The annual dishing out of Hollywood Oscars has become an event so large in itself that it cannot be won before the coverage by one network or another wins a broadcasting award. The eight-hour time difference between London and Los Angeles meant that the BBC used to cover the Oscars in news programmes plus a highlights package the next day. Now both radio and television invite us to stay up all night and hear the awards live. Richard Dallyn, the presenter, is joined by Nelson Aspen, who is described as a "celebrity analyst". I am not sure whether this means that he is a psychiatrist or possibly a showbusiness reporter but in Hollywood these two jobs can often be interchangeable.

Peter Barnard

#### WORLD SERVICE

##### All times in GMT, News on the hour, 5.30am Europe Today

##### 6.30 Europe Today 5.15 Red Dwarf

##### 7.30 Vintage Chart

##### 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Via Dolorosa

##### 9.05 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Red Dwarf

##### 10.12 11.20 Andy Kershaw 10.30 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.05 Sport 3.15 Evening News 3.30 Omnibus 4.15 World

##### 4.30 5.15 English 5.30 Britain Today 6.30

##### 6.30 Just a Minute 7.45 Outlook 7.50 Words of Faith

##### 7.50 Multitrack 8.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Moments That Changed Our World 9

# Having had the cake, I'd like to eat it again

All week, the plan had been the same. To start the review with *Hamish Macbeth*, one of my great favourites of the moment. But the plan will have to wait. Everything will have to wait... for *Have Your Cake and Eat It* (BBC1, Saturday and Sunday). It was quite, quite brilliant.

Whether Michael Jackson, the Controller of BBC1, was right to cram four hours of such high quality drama into only two weekends (almost matching the rate at which ITV is getting through its detective) I do not know. But I do know that next weekend won't be the same without my double dose of *Sinead Cusack*.

I also know that any man thinking of livening up spring with an extramarital fling will be having very serious second thoughts in the wake of Rob Heyland's beautifully crafted screenplay. If the right hook, delivered on the stroke of midnight

on New Year's Eve, didn't persuade them, last night's *coup de grâce*, hot coffee poured directly into the errant lap, will.

Small credit for the success of *Have Your Cake* must go to Paul Abbott, whose not altogether similar serial, *Reckless*, recently reminded us what good television marital infidelity can produce. But however good *Reckless* was by the end, *Have Your Cake* started better and never looked back.

Enormous credit for that must go to Paul Seed, the director, who secured terrific performances from every member of his cast and hit barely a *dull note* throughout.

Having eulogised so rapidly, however, it must be said after Saturday's superlative episode, last night's conclusion did place something of a strain on its credibility as Heyland embarked energetically — and imaginatively — in pursuit of the moral message that his truncated title implied.

"Helping deliver your husband's mistress's baby?" observed Nat (James Bolam). "That'll be something to tell the grandchildren." Wife and mistress brought together by birthing ritual? I didn't buy it for a minute, but by then the whole thing had become so enjoyable that it didn't matter.

**S**inead Cusack, as Charlotte, was outstanding throughout, but it has to be said it was a rare gem of a part, the wronged wife who, when confronted with her husband's infidelity, didn't fall apart but first got empowered and then — finally and fabulously — get even. But she couldn't have done it without wonderful help from Miles Anderson as the ghoulish Sam, Holly Aird as the far from *faulre* other woman, Bolam as her adviser-turned-admirer... indeed just about anybody who uttered a single word of Heyland's hard-

## REVIEW

Matthew Bond



working dialogue. Next weekend will simply not be the same.

Of course, we'll still have *Hamish Macbeth* (BBC1) and perhaps by next weekend he'll be back in *Lochdubh*, rather than gallivanting around the Western Isles solving decades-old mysteries. Solving mysteries is not really what *Hamish Macbeth* is about. It was, however, last night, with Constable Macbeth (the excellent

Robert Carlyle) on holiday on the island of Laggan-Laggan and walking into a plot so complicated that I freely admit I'm not absolutely sure what happened in the end. I know these island communities are close-knit, but this was perhaps crocheted.

Although the episode did have its lighter moments (staying in a household split by the Roman Catholic/Protestant divide, Macbeth prudently opted to *West*) and had Caroline Paterson escaping from Albert Square to play the pretty girl without whom no *Hamish Macbeth* is without, there was something strangely "not right" about it. It was like a story that Daniel Boyle, the writer, had been hanging on to for some time, only to be forced — for whatever reason — into pouring it into a *Hamish Macbeth* mould for which it was never intended, nor indeed, suited. Lovely performances from a cast that included

Alan MacNaughton, Tom Watson and Michael Byrne, but baffling nonetheless. As the old roadside almost says: *Haste Ye Back, Hamish... to Lochdubh*.

do," said his wife, taking time off from *Delta Smith* recipes to remind him of the very foundation stone of detective fiction. Sunday nights — indeed most nights — on TV would be awfully short if everybody told the truth.

Nettles did a good job of establishing Barnaby as a credible character, but was hindered by a storyline where murders are still solved by the knowledge that the Test match had been rained off on Wednesday (nobody mentioned the fact that Test matches are not played on Wednesdays) or that it was half-day closing in Cawston, and by two very theatrical performances from Elizabeth Spriggs and Richard Cant as the village's far from amateur blackmailers. As for Barnaby's inevitable side-kick, Sergeant Troy, he turned out to be a red herring, which in a story dependent on literary knowledge for its final twist... seemed like cheating.

# Coming Gunday.

Channel 5 launches 6pm on Easter Sunday.

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (97095)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (719453)	
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5881434)	
9.20 Style Challenge (4138811)	
9.45 Kilroy (4818076)	
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (11415)	
11.00 News (T) and weather (6834673)	
11.05 The Really Useful Show (7466502)	
11.35 Change That (8021434)	
12.00 News (T) and weather (7988502)	
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5929705)	
12.30 Going for a Song Antiques game, hosted by Michael Parkinson (5296973)	
12.55 The Weather Show (79360637)	
1.00 News (T) and weather (69540)	
1.30 Regional News (3030182)	
1.40 Neighbours (1133498)	
2.05 To Dance with the White Dog (1993)	
<b>FILM</b> with Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy. An elderly man is grief-stricken by the death of his beloved wife after 57 years of marriage, but finds comfort in the company of a stray dog. Directed by Glenn Jordan (7615347).	
3.30 Playdays (5896618) 3.50 Pingu (6251347) 3.50 Badger and Badger (6565106) 4.10 Gadget Boy (189508)	
4.35 Record Breakers Gold. Last in series (5833095) 5.00 Newsround (T) (3100298)	
5.10 Blue Peter (T) (5668495)	
5.35 Neighbours (T) (6855569)	
6.00 News (T) and weather (347)	
6.30 Newsroom South East (927)	
7.00 This is Your Life (9618)	
7.30 Here and Now Steve Annett reports on controversial plans for the emergency services. Plus: Denise Mahoney meets children who suffer from a rare condition in which they feel no pain (811)	
8.00 EastEnders Ricky gets caught in the middle of the mystery surrounding Sarah's disappearance (T) (8386)	
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Complications arise when Phoebe's mother-in-law turns up at the Royal Oak (T) (7873)	
9.00 News (T) and weather (9453)	
9.30 Panorama: Abortion — Behind Closed Doors Sarah Barclay examines the abortion issue (T) (590273)	
10.10 The Untouchables (1987) Kevin Costner stars as Eliot Ness, the crusading federal agent leading this battle against police corruption and underworld crime in 1920s Chicago. With Sean Connery, Robert De Niro and Andy Garcia. Directed by Brian De Palma (611655) WALES: 10.10 The State (762279) 10.40 A Parent's Guide (92051) 10.55 FILM: The Untouchables (1695023) 12.50 Under the Influence (3001390) 1.05 FILM: Crossplot (240835) 2.40 News	
12.05am Under the Influence Sophie Aldred continues to examine the influence of Christianity in Britain (7418835)	
12.20 Crossplot (1989) with Roger Moore and Marth Hyer. A mild-mannered advertising executive unwittingly gets caught up in an espionage ring after being handed an uncompleted crossword puzzle by a dying man. Directed by Alvin Rakoff (34564)	
1.55 Weather (3305767)	
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BBC2	
6.00am Open University: From Child to Pupil (7617434) 6.25 How We Study Children (T) (7638559) 6.50 An English Accent (9668298) 7.15 News (T) (7730999) 7.30 Secret Life of Toys (3251892) 7.45 Wacky Races (T) (589786) 8.10 Blue Peter (T) (T) (5371365) 8.35 Bern (5575988) 9.00 Activ-8 (T) (13873) 9.30 Sweet Valley High (T) (507144) 9.55 Cakes Dole (T) (7698927) 10.10 Playdays (9034182) 10.30 Babar (T) (19057)	
11.00 Lassie: The Voyager (1986) with Robert Ray and MacDonald Carey. Lassie braves a hurricane to give chase to her master. Directed by Dick Moder and Jack B. Hively (43415)	
12.30pm Working Lunch (60279) 1.00 Secret Life of Toys (T) (5998505) 1.15 My Village (8127629)	
1.20 Lady in the Lake (1946, b/w) with Robert Montgomery and Audrey Totter. A missing person case full of intrigue and deception for Philip Marlowe. Directed by Robert Montgomery (32956298)	
3.00 News, Regional News (T) and weather (2454665) 3.05 The Natural World (T) (4575908) 3.55 News (T) (5241980) 4.00 Today's the Day (540) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (724) 5.00 Esther (1304) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (796)	
6.00 The Simpsons (822328)	
6.25 Space Precinct (T) (T) (656502)	
7.10 Electric Circus features Wet Wet Wet (8377288)	
7.30 <b>The Sci Fi Files</b> Military and economic systems could be attacked by high-tech enemies via the Internet (453)	
8.00 Motor Month The first of a new series includes footage of the Vauxhall Rally of Wales (T) (6909)	
8.30 Ray Mears' World of Survival: Menifee White in the Kalahari bush. Mears learns how to avoid lions while tracking antelopes and how to make a poison arrow from fence wire (T) (5415)	
9.00 The Simpsons (822328)	
9.25 Newsnight (T) (916521)	
11.15 Open to Abuse (347366)	
12.00 The Phil Silvers Show (b/w) (35019)	
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: The Lyonnais (21564) 1.30 Modern Art (25293)	
2.00 The Oscars live from Los Angeles. Ends at 6.00 (3738689)	
Bonnie Bedelia as Nancy (9.00pm)	
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ITV	
6.00am GMTV (6265260)	
9.25 Chain Letters (T) (4113602)	
9.55 Regional News (T) (5912969)	
10.00 The Time, the Place (T) (41231)	
10.30 This Morning (4189098)	
12.20pm Regional News (T) (7984786)	
12.30 News (T) and weather (6224569)	
12.55 High Road (T) (6292960) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (71341076) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (T) (608182) 2.40 Savannah (T) (1833960)	
3.20 News (T) (8959265)	
3.25 Regional News (T) (9307998)	
3.30 Tots TV (T) (719845) 3.40 Rainbow Days (9358618) 3.50 Goofy (351988) 4.00 Scooby's Amazing Adventures (2169618) 4.15 Scooby (T) (1879960) 4.45 Art Attack (T) (5824347)	
5.10 Sorted Focusing on bullying (5061263)	
5.40 News (T) and weather (828347)	
6.00 Home and Away (T) (802182)	
6.25 ITV Weather (158908)	
6.30 ITV News (T) (7845)	
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Judith Chalmers bows down Route 66 in Arizona. Plus: Martin Roberts embarks on a grand tour of the Greek Islands and John Carter finds out what makes holidaymakers return to St Ives year after year (T) (7486)	
7.30 Coronation Street Alan demonstrates that his love for Fiona is as strong as ever (T) (279)	
8.00 World in Action An investigation into the off-road racing caused by clamping (T) (3434)	
<b>WESTCOUNTRY</b>	
As HTV West except:	
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6292960)	
1.50 Down by the River (1132521)	
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (8472989)	
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5062163)	
6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)	
6.30-7.00 Westcountry Live (65724)	
10.45 Film: In the Line of Duty — The Twilight Murders (1991) An FBI drama looking at an individual's decision to turn away from friends, family, philosophy or a political cause (301685)	
11.00 Right Reply (T) (76705)	
12.30 <b>CHANCE</b> Light Lunch New series with Albert Roux and his son Michel as guests (8716540)	
1.35pm Book (26923360)	
1.55 Cattle Empire (1988) with Joel McCrea, Gloria Talbott and Don Haggerty. A trail boss, having just got out of jail, reverts to his bad ways. Directed by Charles Marcus Warren (T) (8961456)	
3.30 Collectors' Lot (T) (873) 4.00 Fifteen-To-One (T) (908) 4.30 Countdown (T) (892)	
5.00 The Monty Williams Show (T) (5992)	
5.30 The Real Holiday Show (T) (T) (144)	
6.00 The Cosby Show (T) (647)	
6.30 Hollyoaks Lucy tries to cheer up Baz and Jambo tries to persuade Mr Gardner to give him another chance (T) (637)	
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (7126371)	
7.55 Betrayal The first of six short films looking at an individual's decision to turn away from friends, family, philosophy or a political cause (301685)	
8.00 State of Fury Judy Leden attempts to glide down to earth from 40,000 ft (T) (6573)	
<b>MERIDIAN</b>	
As HTV West except:	
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6292960)	
1.50 Down by the River (1132521)	
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (8472989)	
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5062163)	
6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)	
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (845)	
10.40 The Pier (828521)	
11.05 The Listings (77811)	
11.10 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (75502)	
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (608250)	
5.00am Freescreen (18675163)	
<b>ANGLIA</b>	
As HTV West except:	
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6292960)	
1.50 Down by the River (1132521)	
2.20-3.20 Film: Danielle Steel's Palomino (917786)	
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5062163)	
6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)	
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (845)	
10.45 Film: In the Line of Duty — The Twilight Murders (1991) An FBI drama looking at an individual's decision to turn away from friends, family, philosophy or a political cause (301685)	
11.00 NBA Raw Action from the Detroit Pistons v the Chicago Bulls (38397)	
12.00 <b>CHANCE</b> For the Love of Jon Ronson meets people who search for mythical or "displaced" creatures such as the lion and pumas roaming England (T) (657851)	
1.05am Jesus Before Christ A.N. Wilson travels to sites in Israel to find out more about the life of Jesus (T) (4681583)	



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**HONDA**

First man, then machine.





Finding a cream that makes ageing skin young again is the dream of every cosmetic company. A laboratory in Israel may have some answers

## The secret of young skin

Growing old is a miserable business. The slide downhill begins with a few lines around the eyes. The descent quickens as wrinkles become more deeply etched. As the glowing smoothness of youth turns inexorably into the pallid leathiness of old age, who does not dream of staying forever young?

Now medical researchers claim to have taken an important step towards turning back the clock. A team of scientists at the Haifa Technion in Israel has taken samples of wrinkly skin from elderly volunteers and transformed them into "young" skin. But they admit they are still a long way from discovering the secret of eternal youth.

Small squares of skin were taken from the thighs of 20 patients aged between 75 and 85. Each human skin patch was grafted on to the back of a nude mouse, a hairless animal specially bred to have a feeble immune system. Its poor immunity rendered it incapable of rejecting the graft.

At the same time, the cut-and-graft procedure was repeated with samples from volunteers in their twenties. This second set of grafts provided a yardstick against which to measure quality. Dr Amos Gilhar, a dermatologist from the Skin Research Laboratory at the technion, monitored the progress of the transplanted skin under the microscope. His aim was to see whether aged skin could recover its youthful characteristics.

The skin, the largest organ of the human body, is made up of a thin outer layer (the epidermis) and a thicker layer beneath (the dermis). The epidermis is like armour-plating — it is tough and has an outer layer of dead cells. The dermis contains nerves, blood vessels and living cells.

Dr Gilhar investigated five skin properties that dwindle with age — the rate at which skin cells divide and renew themselves; the number of melanocytes, the cells that produce the pigment melanin; the number of Langerhans cells, which act as sentinels to protect the skin from infection; the thickness of the epidermis and the number of blood vessels.

As these attributes decline, the skin is less able to replenish itself. It gradually thins and becomes more sallow and translucent.

When Dr Gilhar observed the old samples three months after transplantation, he was stunned. "Under the microscope," he says, "the old grafted samples looked identical to the young grafted samples. We found a significant increase in both epidermal thickness and the rate at which the epidermis cells proliferated. However, the number of protective

The ageing process may be reversible, says Anjana Ahuja

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Another feature that improved was the junction between the epidermis and the dermis. In youth, these two serrated layers interlock perfectly. As the years advance, the serrations become blunted and the alignment between them weakens, leaving the skin prone to blisters.

Dr Gilhar found that, in the transplanted skin, the two layers regained their serrated appearance and fitted together more closely. The number of blood vessels also increased. In short, as Dr Gilhar summarises in a research paper: "All these findings may indicate that part of the typical histological (tissue) changes of unexposed aged skin are reversible."

Further investigation revealed that transplantation appears to kick-start chemicals called cytokines. These proteins perform such bodily functions as regulating immune responses and instructing cells to divide. As a person ages, cytokines become scarcer, either because production slows down or their release into the skin is hindered. Dr Gilhar says: "We assume that the transplant procedure somehow led to enhanced secretion of these proteins."

Dr Gilhar and his team of ten researchers have been doing experiments for seven years. The work is funded solely by the technician and there are no plans to collaborate with any cosmetics companies. "There could be important commercial spin-offs," says Dr Gilhar, "but we want to concentrate on the basic science for at least two or three years."

There is intense competition in the beauty industry to find an elixir that will soothe the ravages of time. Two months ago, the collective quest to bottle youth looked as though it had succeeded. Syence, a cosmetic company, claimed it had developed a cream, Servital, which thickened the

skin. The product, which cost £75 for 50ml, was hailed as an anti-ageing treatment. Tests by the BBC programme *Watchdog* showed that creams selling for under £5, including Oil of Ulay, produced comparable thickening.

Dr Gilhar, it seems, has hit on something that will do even better — cytokines. What about putting cytokines in a pot of cream and selling it as an age-defying potion? "That would be very complicated, but it may be possible in the future," he says. "The obstacle is that cytokines are not stable proteins." That would make it impossible to formulate a cream and sell it.

For now, he urges caution.

"Skin is very complex and we have looked at only a few aspects. Yes, we have shown that some changes in the ageing skin can be reversed, but we need more experiments in more detail before we can assess whether we can use this information to turn back the clock. Of course, it would be a dream if we could reverse the ageing process in skin, but I don't think we could do it in humans in my lifetime."

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With mop, bucket and sewing basket, a new generation of women is rediscovering domesticity

# The pleasures of housework

**Y**ou know the feeling. You're sitting upstairs, at your desk (because you work at home), staring at your computer screen; drooping over your typewriter; attempting to attend to MailMerge or PhotoShop, or simply trying to construct a decent sentence.

It is that long, long hour before lunch — too early to eat, can't have another cup of coffee *already*, and you're probably trying to give up smoking. The sentence won't construct, the screen blurs before your eyes ... and then you hear it.

It is a siren song, threading its way up the stairs from the kitchen, perhaps, or the down-stairs loo, or from the skirting boards by the front door. *Clean me*, says the song, like the instruction on Alice's bottle. *Clean me*. If everything were *clean* you could concentrate, you could be

secure in the knowledge that all was bright and gleaming, a very mirror of the mind you wish you had.

Anyway, it's something to do. It's better than this sitting around. And when you have finished, when there is dust in your hair and Jif under your fingernails and the skirting boards are no longer neglected and the scumminy ring around the bath has vanished, you have, to your delight, *accomplished* something.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way about housework. Certainly not if I go by the smiling faces that gleam out from *Every Home Should Have One*, by Jan Boxhall, which is published to celebrate the 75th anniversary of *Good Housekeeping* magazine. Chief among its delights is the advertising, reproduced from down the decades, that promise "Present pleasure and future freedom" (the young mistress of the house, in her becoming flapper-style dress, caresses her Electrolux vacuum-cleaner while Dad and Son — clearly the givers of this splendid gift — peer mischievously from behind the curtains) and that there will be "Time for the pictures on wash-day!"

After the end of the First World War, when young working-class women discovered alternatives to going "into service", bewildered middle-class housewives had to learn how to run a servantless home with the help of new appliances from toasters, to Hooverers, to dishwashers.

Of course, there are still plenty of people who absolutely detest the idea of having to look after themselves. Rumours that the glamorous Kennedy-Bessette marriage was on the rocks were accom-

panied by tales that they were rowing over who did the washing-up; the Australian Government recently considered drawing up "rules of engagement" for couples before they married, in order to ensure that husbands did their fair share and therefore decrease — so it was hoped — the rate of divorce.

Last year a woman in Oregon decided she'd had enough and devised a self-cleaning house. "You open a valve, punch a button and it washes your ceilings, walls, floors, windows, curtains, your furniture, your dirty dishes and your dirty clothes. And then it dries them." Rather like, one imagines, those loos in Leicester Square.

But what about those of us who — hush! hush! whisper who dares! — are actually fond of our mops and brooms?

When I was at college, I earned some extra money cleaning, a couple of mornings a week. I loved it. The homes of university lecturers, I suppose, are not renowned for tidiness; when I arrived, all would be chaos, streaks of babyfood on kitchen cabinets, rumpled sheets and streaky windows. When I left there was order and calm. My task had been straightforward, vigorous, and I always knew I had done a good job. And I got to shout at the curmudgeons on *Call Nick Ross*. Life has rarely been so straightforward again.

**N**ow that I don't work at home, someone cleans it for me, and my own cleaning is mostly confined to tidying my desk at the office. There is no longer time to consult *The Book of Hints and Wrinkles for the Home or Household Hints and Handy Tips*, treasured volumes on my shelves.

Of course, even I think housework can be a chore, and heave a dejected sigh when I read that a recent British Social Attitudes Survey revealed that mothers spend nearly 18 hours a week more than fathers on household tasks. There are a lot of Electrolux-buying men in *Good Housekeeping's* history, but not a lot of them standing by the stove and smiling.

"How many knobs do you really need?" asks a washing-machine ad from this decade, and gives us, as an image of the male in the home, Michelangelo's *David* with a modest garland of fig leaves. Change in the home? Yes, of course. One in five women worked outside the home in the 1950s; by the 1980s it was one in two, and *Good Housekeeping* no longer has to explain the



Erica Wagner: life, she says, is rarely ever so straightforward as when you are wielding a broom

miracle of the electric toaster.

But some things seem disconcertingly consistent across the years. Pat Roberts Cairns, the Editor of *Good Housekeeping*, admits that the "New Man" is a novelty, nationwide. "But is that because of us? A lot of working women striving for perfection tend to think we can do everything; but if we were willing to delegate we could probably do less."

And what we think we can do well, we often like to do. Demos's survey, *Tomorrow's Women*, released recently, re-

ports a turn away from an entirely career-orientated life. "If superwoman provided a dominant image of womanhood in the 1980s, a more balanced model may be taking over in the late 1990s."

But this isn't about social issues. This is about the simple pleasure of elbow grease. So if you'll excuse me, I'm going to leave early and clean the fridge.

• *Every Home Should Have One*, by Jan Boxhall, is published by Ebury Press on March 6. £16.99.

ERICA WAGNER

## A rising hum of sewing bees as the Singers are dusted off

**H**OME SEWING — good, old-fashioned, thumb-tweaking sewing — is making a comeback in the United States. A growing army of American women are dusting down their Singer sewing machines and reacquainting themselves with those neglected needlework skills they learnt at school.

After 20 years as a top model, Lauren Hutton must own several closets full of designer clothes. Yet she chooses to make many of her dresses by hand, and she is not alone.

The actress Daphne Maxwell Reid, best known to

Saving money is no longer the primary motive

British teenagers as Aunt Vivian in the television series *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, is typical of the new home-sewer. At the moment she is making a blue and black suit in raw Thai silk, from a McCall pattern. She plans to wear it when she attends an award banquet in Los Angeles.

Why does she sew when she could easily afford an original Versace Wang? "I really don't like to pay too much when I know what the real value of a dress should be," she explained. "I know the cost of the fabric, and the time it takes to make a garment. I can't justify that sort of overspending. Also I'm what you'd call buxom, which means I can buy a size 12 pattern and modify the bust to a size 14. And the clothes in the stores are never in the colours that I like — red, canary yellow or emerald green. That year when every-

thing in the stores was either olive green or beige, I just didn't shop."

Years of blue-jeans dressing and the 1980s mania for flaunting labels made home sewers an endangered species. But when the recession hit, American women became canny about their pennies, and immersed themselves in all manner of DIY projects. Martha Stewart, in her television programme, showed her sisters how to run up a frock with one hand and repaint an old lampshade with the other. Feminists wrote about the fashion for

home projects as an example of women regaining pride in their grandmothers' lost skills. Hattershaw reported brisk business again.

Louis Morris, the chief executive of Simplicity Patterns, says this is a long-term trend. "Business is excellent. The industry is growing at about 3 to 5 per cent a year, and it's going to pick up even more."

More than \$5 billion was spent on sewing in 1992, up 21.4 per cent from 1987. A third of the country's adult female population now sews.

Why, with the recession over, are young women turning to the pattern books? Saving money, it seems, is no longer the primary reason. It came only third in a survey conducted by the American Home Sewing and Craft Association (AHS).

"First was the sense of accomplishment women gain

LOIS LETTS

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increasing domestication of men. A recent study calculates that male partners of working women do an average of 13 hours of housework a week.]

Then, of course, there is a deeper, what I call biological, drive: perverse though it may sound, many women enjoy housework. It's in their bones.

Seventy-five years have passed since *Good Housekeeping* was launched with the declaration that "There should be no drudgery in the house. There must be time to think, to read, to enjoy life." Admirable sentiments, but in these manic, hyperactive days wildly unrealistic, too.

*Good Housekeeping* estimates that the typical working woman spends 25 hours a week on housework. Paid domestic labour may be a big growth industry in two-earner households, but just as many women are choosing to be their own housekeepers.

Malandra Burrows, an actress and singer who works on the TV soap *Emmerdale*, says: "Like most modern women I have a busy, hectic schedule. In some weeks we have to film as many as five episodes of *Emmerdale* — which leaves very little time for anything else. And yet, the acting world can be so superficial and insecure that I like to feel rooted in domesticity. Having my own home [she lives alone in a large five-bedroom detached house in Leeds] and doing my own housework is a link to a way of life that my grandmother would have recognised."

"As well as being dull and boring, housework is trivial, relaxing and extremely therapeutic. I like it. I think there is a longing in the psyche of many actors to be ordinary — and doing the daily chores is one way of achieving that."

Val Tyler, of the Industrial Society, says that the cost of domestic help can be prohibitively expensive, especially as most working women would rather pay for a nanny than a housekeeper. A fully-trained nanny can cost as much as £300 a week. Which doesn't leave much for anything else.

"There is no doubt that more and more working women are choosing not to employ cleaners," she says. "At first, I think the depression of the early 1990s had something to do with this — many families couldn't afford that additional expense."

"But what we are seeing now is a sociological change, one that reflects the change in family life, and the

miracle of the electric toaster.

But what we are seeing now is a sociological change, one that reflects the change in family life, and the

miracle of the electric toaster.

## ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



### MUSIC

Russian maestro of the moment, Valery Gergiev, conducts the Rotterdam Phil at the Barbican  
CONCERT: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



### POP

Gladys Knight helps us make it through a night of her greatest hits at the Albert Hall  
GIG: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### DANCE

Jump to it! Irak Mukhammedov trips the light fantastic in *La Bayadère* at Covent Garden  
OPENS: Wednesday  
REVIEW: Next week



### REVUE

Sheila Hancock shares a sketch or two with Dawn French in *Then Again* at the Lyric Hammersmith  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday

The Oscars could be described as the effective campaign of a brilliantly mercantile cabal to give their industry hours and acres of free publicity around the world. Yet somehow this marketing manoeuvre has become a curiously respected Honours List. Richard Burton, nominated six times and never a winner, remarked that however much he and others affected to and did indeed despise the Oscars, come the moment they longed to win — and come the obituary it was Oscar who was bound to put in an appearance in the first paragraph.

Oscars are also a way in which we, over here, while knowing ourselves to be Davids in the land of film, pitch ourselves boldly against the big Californian Goliaths, and take exceptional pride when we hit the mark.

So far, this year, so very good. *The English Patient* — happily titled for us although its producer is not English, and nor are many of its cast, and its fictional protagonis

## How many Oscars equal one blockbuster?

nist is Hungarian — leads the way with a dozen nominations, and we all hope to share in its glitz and glory. Mike Leigh's very English *Secrets and Lies*, which has already won the Palme d'Or at Cannes, has picked up five nominations. Kenneth Branagh and other Hamlettes are in the pool, as are *Emma* and *Trainspotting*. We also have some purchase on *James and the Giant Peach* and on *The Crucible*.

By any standard "our boys have done good", and many of us will be in front of the television set early tomorrow morning with rattle at the ready as the show slides down smooth as an oyster.

Close analysis of the nominations list by trade magazines reveals facts which have at least a social value. Of the five nominated Best Actors, four are either "wheelchair-bound" (Woody Harrelson),

severely burnt (Ralph Fiennes), severely troubled (Geoffrey Rush), or mentally challenged (Billy Bob Thornton). That leaves Tom Cruise.

From the same source, *Variety*, I learnt that "last year only one of the 106 nominees was black. This year there are two in the acting races alone." I like "races". No irony intended, I presume.

But although we seem set to win the baubles, the box office remains invincibly American. *Shine*, for instance, has seven nominations and has taken \$16 million at the American box office. *Twister*, with two nominations, has taken \$242 million. Unlikely to win much, *Independence Day* has grossed \$481 million worldwide so far. Likely to be in there with a big haul, *The English Patient* — \$42 million so far.

It is always tempting on such occasions to generalise mirthfully, and I see no reason to resist. Could it be that a wedge is now being driven in what is being perceived as "intelligent", "worthwhile" and "quality", and what is seen as b

office fodder, and could it be that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is sending out a strong signal to its own countrymen that good as the sound of cascading millions at the box office may be, it is not good enough? It could be, although some might think it a miracle.

Much more likely is that in a sprawling year with Hollywood in a tired mood it relied on what it could do supremely well — sell globally. The trick or catch is that such films must be pitched at an unrelentingly low level. Spectacle is a useful word here, because no one wants to begrudge a Spectacle. Who would dare to say they oppose fireworks, even though fireworks and nothing but fireworks and no development: from fireworks is probably as bad for the brain as *foie gras* and nothing but *foie gras* is for the liver?

There is no doubt that Hollywood's smartest operators have long opened up and dominated a world market which is now exploited through the deliberate and cynical use of excessive violence, moral ambiguity, visceral camera work and pre-adolescent plotting and dialogue.

This stripped-down model of the American Dream from a land capable of nightmares of complication is carried across the globe and popped into the open mouths of willing chicks worldwide, hungry as they have been throughout the century for the celluloid visions of America.

Perhaps these Oscar nominations today are acting as a brake, or a warning finger pointing to the greater variety which can be delivered in an *English Patient* or a *Secrets and Lies*. That is what we, the British, would like to read

into it, and I think many more — especially in America — would join in. But our hope also contains some envy that we cannot as yet cut the mustard at the big Bang box office. Still, this year, sticking to our last looks like putting us first.

If you saw *Cost fan tutti* on television recently you would have seen a credit for Armani for the clothes. The credit in the programme at the Royal Opera House was as big as that for Mozart. If Armani was paid for these costumes, may we ask why?

I am not a fan of the Italian style, but what I saw on stage seemed to be very much what you see in shop windows or on the backs of fashionable folk in fashionable magazines. *Cost* gave Armani the most tremendous advertisement.

In my view, rather than being paid for the clothes, Signor Armani should have paid the Royal Opera House for allowing him to dress such a vivid production.

## Magnificently mysterious

### CONCERT

THERE must be times when even the most devoted admirer would wish that Debussy had not got involved with *Gabriel d'Annunzio* and *Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien*. If the poet had written the text in his own language rather than his oddly synthetic French, and if he had got a nice Italian composer to collaborate with him on it, Debussy would have been free to do something else.

It is true that Debussy believed in what he was doing and that the score of *Le Martyre* does contain much inspired music. But in its original full-scale theatrical form, which took more than four hours to perform at the Châtelier in 1911, it was a disaster. When reduced to about sixty minutes of music and narration, which is the way it is done these days, it is

still unwieldy in construction and no less heavily flawed by its crazy text. Even so, it has to be heard and in conducting its first performance at a Halle concert in Manchester — only a few days after a rare presentation in London, incidentally — Kent Nagano registered a considerable, even historical, achievement.

It could have been better cast, particularly in the narrator role of Sébastien himself, which was spoken by Lahcen Kebdi as though he didn't really understand it. But who does? And anyway — alongside very competent performances from Emma Selway and Jane Irwin as the martyred Christian twins and Sibylle Ehlert as everything else — there was some well-

GERALD LARNER

prepared, convincingly French-sounding singing from the Halle Choir and some exquisitely sensitive playing from an evidently enchanted orchestra.

The most convincing aspect of Olivier Charlier's interpretation of Beethoven's Violin Concerto was his treatment of the cadenzas. If there is something slightly suspect about a Beethoven performance which is more secure, more purposeful and more stylish in passages which are not by Beethoven — they must be the best thing Kreisler ever wrote — it is undeniably useful for a soloist to be able to assert his authority where he is most exposed. Certainly, the audience in the Bridgewater Hall was far from unhappy with the situation.

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GERALD LARNER

HE MAY look as if he could scare away crows for a living, but Jimmy Nail has a strong claim to the title of Britain's most fully rounded entertainer. From scripting to songwriting, producing to performing, and as an actor on both the small and the silver screens, his accomplishments of the past decade and a half seem limitless.

Prominent among those achievements is for such a familiar television face to be taken seriously in the pop world. "It's Saturday night, let's rock" he told a somewhat undersubscribed Wembley Arena, and during a generous two-hour show with a fine seven-piece band, provided a typically versatile and good-humoured spectacle.

Nail's second album of

## Versatile veteran

### POP

songs from his *Crocodile Shoes* TV project is a modest success compared with the first, million-selling volume from 1994. He opened here with *Country Boy*, the theme tune of the second series, easily scaling the vocal peaks of the recorded version.

He addressed his audience with a mixture of thespian confidence and working men's club bravado, and gradually coaxed some deserved response from a slow crowd

PAUL SEXTON

with a three-tiered set. The first also included *Crocodile Shoes* and two of the elegant songs donated to him for the series by Prefab Sprout's Paddy McAloon, *Cowboy Dreams* and *Blue Roses*.

In part two, he and the band were stage-front and acoustic, the toothsome bill of fare including *Family's My Friend the Sun* and *On This Night of a Thousand Stars*, the audition piece. Nail performed to land his role in Alan Parker's film of *Evita*. Electric again for the final section, he gave us a heartfelt *Big River*, his song about his Tyneside childhood, an opulent *Love Don't Live Here Anymore* and a spirited *Ain't No Doubt*. A thoroughly likeable weekend diversion.

PAUL SEXTON

## Lady in the Dark

A musical play by Moss Hart with lyrics by Ira Gershwin and music by Kurt Weill.

Maria Friedman's performance confirms that she is a major star.

Francesca Zambello's

costumes

are

lavish. The set by David M. Williams is a

delight.

and

the

lighting

is

superb.

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Alma-Tadema's *The Roses of Heliogabalus*. The impression is of almost dignified decadence, yet the subjects are about to be choked by petals

## The DeMille of the canvas

When we read that a painter is a master of light, we normally imagine something in the Impressionist line, where solid form is dissolved in light and the illusion of light playing over surfaces is at once the means and the end of art. Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema would never qualify according to such presuppositions. Yet the predominant impression made by his works, collected in the definitive exhibition just arrived at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, is the painter's surpassing skill in moving light around his pictures, sculpting form, evoking texture and imbuing the whole with a magical atmosphere.

According to received wisdom, he is a sort of "Madame Tussaud of painting". But the other thing he has been called, "the DeMille of painting", is much nearer the mark — not in the derogatory sense that is usually intended, but in the cinematic quality of his images. Alma-Tadema was certainly much influenced by, and to an extent involved with, the sort of late-Victorian spec-

tacular theatre that led to early cinema. But his brilliance in the disposition of lighting, especially indirect lighting and lighting from unexpected angles, marks him out even in a generation of virtuosos. He possibly owed his enormous contemporary reputation to an unconscious awareness in his public that he was essentially garbing Victorian situations in fancy dress, so that his classical scenes appeared at once titillatingly exotic and comforting and familiar. At the beginning of his career, in the 1850s and 1860s, he was quite content to paint the same sort of domestic and social scenes in a contemporary setting, or in the more fashionable Gothic style.

Be that as it may, Alma-Tadema rapidly threw off the influence of early Dutch genre painting natural to his Dutch origins and training. By the time he moved to England in 1870, he was completely settled in his fantasy world of Mediterranean sunshine and shadow, flowing classical drapery and elegant understated eroticism which hardly ever transgressed the bounds of Victorian good taste.

That is not to say that his subjects were always as nice as might have been hoped:

*The Roses of Heliogabalus*, for instance, depicts the moment when the emperor's guests are about to be asphyxiated in earnest by the ton of rose petals showered on them as they revel. But the most one

would be aware of without prior briefing is that something decorative and presum-

ably decadent is happening, to the delight of all present.

But there can be little doubt that the unorthodox spirit of a painter who would essay such a subject in the first place.

Over and over, the suspicion is irresistible that Alma-Tadema was trusting to a parade of archaeological accuracy to ward off criticism of the sometimes flagrant erotic content. It is not for nothing that the reclining nude with a strategically placed feather fan in *Teppidarium* of 1881 has, on at least three occasions, appeared as the jacket illustration for books about Victorian pornography.

Of course Alma-Tadema is by no stretch of the imagination pornographic, but it must be admitted that his pulses seem to run faster than those

of the impeccably discreet Lord Leighton, to whose centenary show at the Royal Academy last year this show is a sort of companion-piece. Leighton is perhaps the superior painter, but a certain bloodlessness has a chilling effect far distant from Alma-Tadema's sensuous warmth.

Alma-Tadema, like DeMille, does not mind skirting vulgarity and appears to take positive pleasure in sneaking in forbidden materials under the cover of educational self-righteousness.

This show makes one understand both the enthusiasm of Alma-Tadema and the speed of the reaction against him after his death in 1912. Obviously he seemed irresponsible and chocolate-boxy in a world heading rapidly towards Armageddon. But from the safer distance of another *fin de siècle*, one can comfortably recognise his dazzling brilliance as a draughtsman and the sheer passion for painting which inspired him.

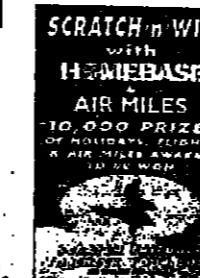
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**THEATRE**  
Mad monarch time for Ian Holm as he takes the title role in *King Lear* at the National Theatre  
OPENS: Thursday  
REVIEW: Saturday



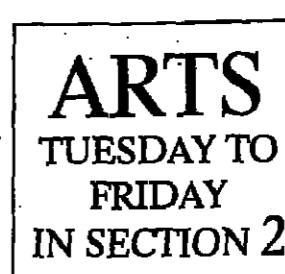
**FILM**  
Strictly Bard room: Baz Luhrmann gives a contemporary flavour to *Romeo and Juliet*  
OPENS: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday



**BOOKS**  
A thousand years from now: Arthur C. Clarke turns the clock forward to 2001  
IN THE SHOPS: Now  
REVIEW: Saturday



**OPERA**  
Catherine Malfitano goes headhunting as *Salome* comes back to the Royal Opera House  
OPENS: Saturday  
REVIEW: Monday



# Battle of the ballerinas

**DANCE**: Debra Craine on the first night of Covent Garden's enjoyable revival of *La Bayadère*

**T**his is a tricky ballet to get right. With its lavishly exotic setting, its grandiose and histrionic gestures, its hussily melodramatic scenario and its hilariously incongruous Viennese melodies, *La Bayadère* can easily be dismissed as a kitsch potboiler. Enjoyable kitsch, yes, as indeed this revival is. But Petipa's 1877 oriental spectacle is more than that: it is the heartbreaking tale of poor Nikiya, the Indian temple dancer — the bayadère — betrayed by her warrior lover and murdered by her royal rival. And her dance at their betrothal festivities is one of profound sadness. Or at least it should be.

The problem on Saturday, opening night of the Royal Ballet's revival of Natacha Makarova's production, was one of casting. Covent Garden fielded its two biggest female stars — Sylvie Guillem and Darcey Bussell — in the leading roles. But, as it turned out, they probably should have swapped places.

Guillem, for all her extraordinary talents, is not the ballerina to play Nikiya. Although she generated some wonderful moments of spontaneous delight in her first pas de deux with Jonathan Cope's Solor, her own personality as a dancer quickly got in the way. Her style is too ornate and ostentatious for a humble bayadère, her demeanour too grand to be reconciled with Nikiya's essential modesty. Indeed, Guillem possesses all the glamour and imperiousness that rightly belong to Gennetzi, the Rajah's daughter who steals Solor away from Nikiya. This was the part taken by Bussell, who was

more than happy with the difficult choreography, but not quite so effective in a role that requires her to subdue her natural benevolence.

Gennetzi and Solor's "duo" in the palace garden is one of the highlights of the ballet, the scene in which the flashiest dancing takes place. Diversions, solos and pas de deux busy a stage already brimful with partygoers. Bussell and Cope shone at the centre of it all, delivering generous and confident phrases of exciting dance.

Guillem's entry into the festivities announced that trouble was on the horizon.

But the torment of Solor's betrayal was acted out by Guillem in an introspective solo that failed to ignite the tragedy of Nikiya's situation.

**A**nd the subsequent Kingdom of the Shades, which finds the dead Nikiya staring in Solor's guilt-ridden, opium-induced hallucination, produced a surprisingly blank interpretation from Guillem, almost as if she could find no meaning in what is one of the most effulgent scenes in 19th-century Russian ballet.

As the man in the middle of two formidable women, a dashing Cope seemed to be having a whale of a time. His initial scenes with Guillem were driven by a convincing ardour, and he had the decency later to look ashamed of himself for agreeing to marry Gennetzi. The production as a whole looked revived, the cast having been coached by Makarova, and aside from a brief attack of the shakes, the Shades made a convincing case for themselves.



Sylvie Guillem: miscast as Nikiya in the Royal Ballet's revival of *La Bayadère*

**FLORENCE** revived Haydn's *Orfeo*, also known as *L'arista del filosofo*, for Maria Callas in the early 1950s. She sang only two performances before deciding that Eurydice was not for her. Haydn must shoulder some of the blame. *Orfeo* is a clumsy constructed piece as far as the lead soprano is concerned and he might well have tinkered with his only London-commissioned opera had it been performed in his lifetime, which it was not.

Eurydice's death from the bite of a poisonous serpent inspired Haydn to one of his most powerful and dramatic numbers. But that comes midway through Act II and three more acts follow during which Eurydice scarcely gets a look in. *Felony* is compounded. In Act III Haydn gives the second soprano a brilliant display aria as the Sibyl, whom Orpheus consults about getting back his lost love. Take on the

## A joyous presentation of a Greek tragedy

### OPERA

**Orfeo ed Eridice**  
QEH

calm soul of the philosopher is her advice, ringed around with clusters of high notes calculated to make audiences forget all about Eurydice.

The LPO gave *Orfeo* a rare airing in its current Haydn festival. It was hardly the semi-staged performance promised: the chorus lined up at the back of the orchestra and the soloists at the front. But the cast was strictly operatic and showed the value of the LPO's Glyndebourne link. All the principals had sung there recently.

Christiane Oeze was Anne Trulove in *The Rake* two years ago and her Eurydice shows the same ability to convey purity and innocence. Her soprano stays light and delicate and she steered well clear of over-

doing things as Eurydice expires. The sighing was rightly left to the orchestra, which had an invigorating evening with Frieder Bernius.

Claron McFadden was a late arrival as the Sibyl and she glittered away with a fusilliade of high

notes as awesome as those Mozart gave the *Queen of the Night*. The Sibyl comes and goes, but Orpheus himself is on stage for most of the time. Kurt Streit, highly accomplished Mozartian, had no problems in a part punishing not least because of lengthy recitatives Haydn might have snipped a bit. Streit has the lyric qualities, which proclaim Orpheus the soother of souls, and also the bottom register to cope with the low notes strewed throughout the part. Creon, Eurydice's father, is a stereotype, but his three arias at least have as William Dazeley was quick to emphasise.

Terry Edwards's London Voices in this heavily choral work have to play everything from cupids to bacchantes. Clean sound, poor diction.

There is a further performance tomorrow.

JOHN HIGGINS

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Terry Edwards's London Voices in this heavily choral work have to play everything from cupids to bacchantes. Clean sound, poor diction.

The friends have retreated to Ireland's western seaboard for a Halloween reunion. But although someone mentions a loy, this is clearly not J.M. Synge's West. The cottage has

been the base for a hipster design company and still features all-black decor, full-size mural of Géricault's *Raft of the Medusa* and a big dark, alcohol pit of a refrigerator.

Kathy Strachan's sharp set designs add skulls, bones and other seasonal favours, but even without them the message is clear: this is a fair fit for only *fin de siècle* hogoblin.

True, even the playwright appears to have little sympathy for this gang, but its members are so potently unattractive that it soon becomes almost an impossibility to separate a growing irritation with them from feelings about the play.

The friends have retreated to Ireland's western seaboard for a Halloween reunion. But although someone mentions a loy, this is clearly not J.M. Synge's West. The cottage has

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**THEATRE**

# Women's last stand in Oxford

Angelica Goodden on the ironies of men moving into St Hilda's

The recent vote by the governing body of St Hilda's College, Oxford, to open its fellowship to men is widely thought to have delivered the *coup de grace* to the university's single-sex tradition. But St Hilda's may yet reverse its decision, and for a significant reason. Perhaps the true issue is not the economic factors that prompted the vote for change, but the cause of female academics. What St Hilda's plight shows is how badly the law against sexual discrimination has misfired.

It is widely known that women are chronically under-represented in university life. Even in the United States, the Mecca of academics, barely 14 per cent of full professorships are held by women. In Oxford, women have a similarly low proportion of the permanent academic jobs; some faculties, including my own, have no female professors at all. Yet the proportion of female undergraduates at Oxford, like most British universities, is now some 40 per cent and will soon reach parity with men.

Common sense suggests that positive steps should be taken to increase the proportion of women in university teaching; but because St Hilda's elects only women to its tutorial fellowships, it is deemed to be in breach of equal opportunities legislation, and so is punished financially by its parent institution. Because St Hilda's does not actively support the rights of men, the University of Oxford cannot legally support it and contributes nothing to the cost of university lectureships that St Hilda's badly needs.

The irony, of course, is that the pendulum has actually swung decisively in the direction of 'men's rights'. Three of the other four colleges founded for women a century ago have now embraced the cause of male employment so enthusiastically that men constitute roughly three-quarters of their fellowship, though Somerville, the last to go mixed, has not yet emulated them. But perhaps it is not a question of conscious enthusiasm. Men, so the argument goes, are simply better equipped to teach certain academic subjects (particularly scientific ones), and it is incumbent on any employer to choose the best person for the job.

No doubt there is some truth in this. But given growing concerns about 'gender bias' at both senior and junior levels of academic life, a degree of scepticism is in order. Science fellows at St Hilda's are far from unanimous in agreeing that competent women cannot be found for appointments to scientific posts. Does the fact that men hold so many jobs in areas where women's strengths are acknowledged — that is, in arts subjects — mean that men are somehow better than women at making a case for themselves? Do men impress interviewing panels as more proficient, dynamic and capable than women? It is incontrovertibly the case that most men, not having children to bear, have more time to devote to other kinds of produc-

Male panache may be better rewarded than female patience

who take education seriously. The unique identity of an institution such as St Hilda's is neither quaint nor irrelevant. As long as doubts remain about the equity of judgments of academic performance and potential, the importance of the female view must be tirelessly proclaimed. As long as the suspicion of subconscious discrimination on sexual grounds persists, the interests of those who may be so discriminated against must be supported.

Financial pressures on universities are frightening, and perhaps frightening women more than men. The fear of letting heart rule head (traditionally seen as a female weakness) has led a number of women at St Hilda's to vote for change. But wishing to retain our distinctive character is a pragmatic impulse, not a product of emotional yearning. A college founded in the name of disadvantage, and which has been poverty-stricken since its foundation, cannot easily ride the financial storm which has long been brewing as a consequence of equal opportunities legislation. The old, strong desire to preserve the distinctiveness of an all-female institution should not hastily give way to market forces. Many beyond the college deprecate the stampede towards coeducation, declaring that variety is what the university needs. But none has ever attempted to translate conviction into action.

The author is a fellow of St Hilda's College.

## And be damned

WRITERS who feel badly treated by their publishers have a new and unlikely hero in Darius Guppy. Last week via the High Court, he instituted proceedings against his publisher, Blake Publishing, in order to recover the third and final payment for his autobiography. *Roll the Dice*.

Before taking on this new role as publishing's War Tyler, Citizen



Guppy: upper hand

Guppy was best known for his Pink Pantherish attempt to defraud Lloyd's of London with a faked jewel theft. Bungling on the job landed him a spell in chokey, which was awkward for one who had served as best man to the present Earl Spencer.

Blake Publishing, whose stable includes Ronnie Kray, the former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith and the Duchess of York's psychic friend Madame Vassou, paid Guppy a hefty advance for his book. When the final cheque was due, however, Guppy was told several times that it was 'in the post'.

After a couple of months, he grew fed up and on March 6, after Blake failed to put in a defence, he obtained a judgment ordering it to cough up or give a good reason for not doing so, and on March 17 he applied to have its assets seized. All rather embarrassing for Blake, which is said to want to go upmarket.

All rights and royalties from the book and an expected film should now revert to Guppy, who is revelling in the fight. 'Now he has the law working for him rather than against him,' says one close friend, 'there's no stopping him.'

Good old Peter Mandelson, the caring new Labour campaign director. When the election was called, he rallied the 100 or so youths who run the Labour war room in Millbank Tower and told them they should follow his lead by taking plenty of vitamins and giving up alcohol for the duration. Over at Tory Central Office, they are without such pastoral care. After 10pm, out comes the whisky and recriminations soon follow.

### Yanked out

HORSEY English accents and Jermy Street shirts were greatly in evidence at the opening of the International Asian Art Fair in New York on Friday night.

Of the 50 exhibitors, 20 are from London, including the one-time Kensington Palace habitué Oliver Hoare, the St James's gong-pedlar Spink & Sons, Bond Street's John Eskenazi and Mount Street's Michael Gillingham, whose left eyebrow quivered in discreet ecstasy as the dollar sales figures.

At the bar it was British G & T's all round, with one son of Albion loudly calling out: 'None of that ice in mine, thank you, Luigi!' Could this really be Manhattan?

All that was missing was the Duchess of York, who was expected

The time for a change argument is boosting the Scottish Nationalists, but their hopes are unrealistic

# Can Scotland go it alone into Europe?

Scotland's political mood is quite different from that in England, as Magnus Linklater has been telling us in articles on this page. Last weekend I went to see for myself. I had been invited to speak at a lunch meeting in the Central Fife constituency, where my younger son, Jacob, is the prospective Unionist candidate. This was not an election meeting — the campaign has not started yet — but a serious discussion of the constitutional issues of Scotland's relationships both with Europe and the United Kingdom. There was indeed a raffle for party funds: the first prize was the choice of a signed photograph of Margaret Thatcher or a bottle of whisky, and the winner chose the photograph.

At the 1992 general election, the Conservatives won 25.7 per cent of the vote in Scotland, and 45.5 per cent in England, a 20 per cent gap between the two countries; in 1997 that gap will be much narrower. The Tories are far behind 1992 in all the polls in England; in Scotland they may actually increase their share of the vote.

There are a number of reasons for this. The most important is that the 'time for a change' argument sells at least equally strongly against Labour in Scotland. Labour has been the majority party in Scotland as long as one can remember, particularly dominant in the big centres of population. Some of the support for the Scottish National Party (SNP) comes from this factor of boredom. The central group in the Labour leadership — Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Robin Cook and Donald Dewar — all have Scottish connections, though Tony Blair is not seen as Scottish in Scotland. For the English voters, this is a new team: for Scottish electors, such figures are over-familiar as the Tory team in England.

Scotland is also suspicious of new Labour. Scottish Labour voters are traditionalist and trade-unionist; they

support the Labour local government in big cities. John Smith was their ideal leader, coming from the right wing of old Labour. Tony Blair is resented by many Scottish Labour supporters as an Englishman with a fancy accent who has hijacked their party. The qualities that make Tony Blair popular in England tend to tell against him in Scotland.

The Scottish Conservatives are suffering from the general unpopularity of the Government, but even that looks different north of the border. Scottish Tories do not talk much about John Major; the focus of their loyalty is much more likely to be Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State. He is a genuinely popular figure in Scotland, respected even by people opposed to his politics. Labour

Union is seen as a generous provider of regional funds, and as a potential ally for Scottish nationalism, whereas English nationalists see Europe as a threat to national independence.

Euro-scepticism has little resonance in Scotland. I found that the issues which might arise from the SNP's policy of an independent Scotland inside the European Union were new to most of my audience. I suspect that many Scots see the appeal of the policy but have not yet seen its difficulties.

There are two European objections to admitting a separate Scotland. The first is funding. Ireland has been a very large beneficiary from EU funds, most of which are provided by Germany and some by the United Kingdom. Scotland would not get the same benefits as Ireland. After the experience of funding East Germany, and with the need to fund the East European candidates for entry to the EU, Germany will not take on an increased commitment to pay for Scotland. The German economy is in difficulties, with high unemployment. The message that would be given to an applicant Scotland by the EU is 'the gravy train has been cancelled until further notice'.

Scotland might not be admitted at all. All the larger European countries have reason to fear the fragmentation of Europe. Scotland joined the United Kingdom by the Act of Union in 1707; Bavaria joined the German Empire only in 1871. Catalonia has as strong

claims to separate membership of the EU as Scotland; so perhaps has Lombardy; so have the Basques, the Flemings and/or the Walloons. To admit a separate Scotland to the EU would threaten the disintegration of Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Belgium. That is not something the EU will be keen to facilitate.

The constitutional ferment in Scotland is based on real emotions and is going to have an impact on the whole United Kingdom. The Unionists in Scotland naturally have a much better understanding of the reality of Scottish national feeling than anyone in London. They recognise the strength of Scottish national patriotism, which they share. What they fear is that a Scottish parliament, inevitably dominated by the Labour vote in Strathclyde, would quarrel with a future Westminster Parliament of a different party, as such a Scottish parliament might have quarrelled with Margaret Thatcher's administrations. They fear that such a quarrel would break up the United Kingdom. They want to find a better way forward.

One interesting new element has been injected into this debate: Andrew Neil has become editorial director of *The Scotsman*, which in two or three months has been changed almost out of recognition. It is now very reminiscent of the aggressive, anti-Establishment but open-market *Sunday Times* of the 1980s. *The Scotsman's* line on the sleaze allegations has been as tough as anyone's. Indeed, Scottish Tories much resent it. Yet Andrew Neil is not a little Scotland man, but a radical anti-Establishment Scottish Thatcherite like Michael Forsyth himself; both like in meeting global competition. The Adam Smith case for an open-market Scotland does not now lack champions. When the campaign starts, I think Jacob is going to have some fascinating issues to discuss.

knows that he is the Tory it has to be. I heard one comment, not from a Conservative, that he has been 'by light years the best Secretary of State of modern times'. He is also seen by Scots as a real Scot, not an Englishman in a kilt. I would not give anyone else much chance of holding his ultra-marginal seat of Stirling, but he might just do it. If he does, he could come back to Westminster as the one member of the Cabinet with a really successful election campaign.

Europe is a good deal more popular in Scotland than in England. For the Scottish voter, the European

enough. Any new government will have to explore new ways of financing public services, such as an earmarked health tax, as well as further privatisation.

Labour's risk-averse strategy has drawn heavily on the lessons of the Clinton campaigns in 1992 and 1996, and is similarly driven by polling and market research. Mr Blair's advisers are worried by evidence of a sceptical mood among voters, and have been keen to minimise the distance between the main parties when it comes to Europe, and especially a single currency. This was reflected in the markedly sceptical, at times almost nationalist, language in Mr Blair's article in *The Sun* last Monday, which was followed by that paper's endorsement of Labour the next day.

Even though Mr Blair is dubious about the merits of monetary union now, his vision of Britain's role in Europe is totally different from the populist scepticism of *The Sun*. Labour advisers are being too cynical for their long-term good. They say 'wait until after the election and you will see our true pro-European colours'. I agree. Mr Blair will be keen to demonstrate that he wants, and is able, to pursue a more positive approach than John Major could. But a willingness to compromise at the Amsterdam summit in June will bring charges of betrayal from some of his fair-weather supporters in the press.

Mr Blair has a clear idea of his priorities on education, welfare reform, relations with business and Europe, and constitutional reform. He knows what he wants Britain to be like in five years' time. But he has not spelt out what this will involve, the means as well as the ends. The ruthless and so far successful campaigning strategy risks being all things to all people. Labour will no doubt claim that if it wins a big majority, it will have a mandate for its programme. But it will not if it fails to address the choices facing Britain. Mr Blair should show some of the same boldness as a prospective Prime Minister that he has displayed as Labour leader.

## Time to show some boldness

Peter Riddell  
says Labour's  
election-winning  
strategy is short  
on frankness



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

are regulated and licensed by statute would be 'eligible' for such a levy, but only those that have earned excess profits will be 'liable'. This would limit the main impact to the regional electricity and water companies. Otherwise, by proposing an audit of the 'books', Mr Brown is preparing the way for a 'shock, horror' revelation when, as the incoming Chancellor, he can claim the figures are worse than he expected, and blame the Tories for any increase in rates.

But Mr Brown already knows that the projections in the Treasury's Red Book are flawed, even though he has pledged to maintain spending plans for the next two years. These spending totals, and the recent growth rate of health spending, can be maintained only by cuts in other areas, and Labour would be accused of betraying the spirit, if not the letter, of Mr Blair's pledge.

Mr Blair was right yesterday to emphasise in the *News of the World* the importance of trust in tax. But he may live to regret the firmness of his remark that 'if, after five years, I break my promises on tax, on not raising basic and top rates of income tax, on trade unions and these essential things I have said we will do, we are gone. We are probably

finished for ever'. Labour is in danger of being too clever by half, since the basic and higher rates are symbolic and are not the same as the overall tax burden. Even after Mr Brown's promise yesterday, not to increase national insurance contributions, there are many other ways to raise taxes. Many voters will not understand the distinction if personal taxes rise in other ways, and Labour would be accused of betraying the spirit, if not the letter, of Mr Blair's pledge.

For all their caution about making new promises, Mr Blair and Mr Brown have so far failed to prepare the ground for the necessary and difficult decisions on paying for existing programmes, with the important exception of replacing student grants by loans. Avoiding pledges to reverse Tory changes is not

brating the fact that their veiled friend had decided not to get married. They called this event an unwedding party.

### Ring cycle

ON the day of the Tories' victory in the 1992 general election, Michael Portillo, then Minister for Local Government, pulled out his mobile telephone in an Italian restaurant and rang his Labour Shadow David Blunkett to gloat.

This time round, Blunkett is hoping for revenge. He bumped into Portillo recently in the Commons and demanded his mobile number. Portillo promised to send it round the next day, blithely brushing aside the possibility that this time round it will be him eating the humble pie and Blunkett the ravioli.

### As I say...

BACK IN January, PHS predicted that it would not be long before Honoria Fraser, the Scottish model, was signed up as the face of the French fashion house, Givenchy. Now, according to those close to her, it's a deal.

Miss Fraser, sister of Lord Lovat, has been close to Alexander Mc-

Queen, chief designer at the French fashion house, ever since he was cutting frocks on his kitchen table. Her cousin, Stella Tennant, will doubtless be passing on advice, having ousted Claudia Schiffer to become the face of Chanel last year. The money Miss Fraser is likely to make from the contract should ensure that she need never concern herself with the cost of a laddered tight again.

P.H.S

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150 من الأصل



## HARD LABOUR

Blair has to stick to tough free-market employment policies

Britain is booming, proclaims the latest Tory election poster. Unemployment has fallen to just 6.2 per cent, the Office for National Statistics announced on Wednesday. Why, then, are jobs still cited as the third most important problem facing Britain, after health and education? And why is Labour seen as having better policies on unemployment by a majority of three to one?

An informed debate on employment issues ought to play a central role in the election campaign. And a proper understanding of these issues will be even more important after the voting is over, since a Labour government would be under intense pressure from its supporters to revert to a traditionalist strategy on job creation, workplace conditions and union rights. The critical arguments about employment, discussed in today's *Election Guide* on page 6, can be boiled down to two points.

While Britain's job market has performed well by European standards in the three years of economic recovery since 1991-92 recession, the long-term employment record in the 18 years of Tory government gives no cause for self-satisfaction. Unemployment today is still higher than it was when Margaret Thatcher took office. This one fact may alone be sufficient to explain the continuing public anxiety about jobs, even without considering the less secure nature of today's employment, the widespread hardship caused by compulsory early retirements and the big transfers of jobs in favour of women and part-timers at the expense of full-time men. Another statistical cause for concern is that the total rate of employment growth in Britain since 1979 has not been significantly higher, despite all the newfound flexibility and deregulation, than in the hidebound economies of France, Italy and probably Germany (where figures have been distorted by reunification in 1989).

But against all these disappointments must be set one overwhelming and unquestionable achievement of the Tory per-

iod: the taming of the trade unions and the creation of a completely new culture of economic realism, productivity, and competitiveness in British industrial relations. It is easy to forget that the question of whether the country should be governed by Parliament or by trade unions dominated British politics not only in the 1979 election, but also in the elections of 1974, 1970 and 1966. During both of the last two Labour Governments, ministers found it literally impossible to imagine how they could run the economy and avoid galloping inflation without imposing incomes policies and offering the unions decisive political power.

By breaking the monopoly power of the trade unions, by deregulating the labour market, and by focusing economic policy on incentives, productivity and profits, rather than political intervention, archaic tradition and coercive rights, the Tories put in place the foundations for an economic renaissance in Britain. If the benefits of these reforms have not yet been more impressively manifested, the explanation lies partly in the Tories' own macroeconomic mismanagement, but also in the simple fact that supply side reforms inevitably take many years to produce results. A newly elected Labour government could conclude that the Tories' employment reforms were not, after all, what the country needed and drift back to the old collectivist approach. This would be nothing short of a tragedy for Britain.

Tony Blair seems aware of the disastrous consequences of returning even part way to his party's old policies on employment. But a Labour government, by its very nature, would contain loud and powerful voices for turning back the clock. And many of Mr Blair's policies — on the social chapter, on minimum wages and on union recognition — suggest that he may be ready to appease the traditionalists. Nothing will be more important for Mr Blair than to resist old Labour's siren calls for re-regulating the workplace — and nothing will be harder.

## RUSSIA'S WOUNDED PRIDE

The West must show that Helsinki was not another Versailles

President Yeltsin surprised everyone at Helsinki last week with his physical vigour and political agility. Fit, alert and jovial, he spent long hours negotiating with President Clinton and decided to make the best of a weak hand. Knowing that he could not stop the eastward expansion of Nato, he used the occasion to wring from Mr Clinton what concessions he could. He was promised virtually full membership of the reformed "Summit of the Eight", he was offered a rapid beginning to Start 3 negotiations on nuclear reductions and he was given assurances of backing for Russian membership of the World Trade Organisation and the Paris Club of export credit agencies.

On the crucial issue of Nato expansion, however, he achieved almost nothing. Mr Clinton promised that no nuclear weapons or military infrastructure would be deployed on the territory of the three proposed new members; and he promised a document in the next few weeks detailing Russia's role in co-ordinating policy with Nato. Both had long been assumed to be the minimum necessary to allow expansion to go ahead at all. Mr Yeltsin won no new assurances that former Soviet republics would be kept out of Nato and no guarantee that the proposed Nato-Russia Council would be legally binding. All he obtained was an agreement to disagree and soothing words about Nato's peaceful intentions.

To Mr Yeltsin's critics, his performance was lamentable. Accusations of capitulation echoed around Moscow even before he arrived home. The Communists said out loud what everyone in Russia, and the West, recognises: Russia is being admitted "no further than Nato's cloakroom". More ominously, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, compared the summit out-

come to the treaty of Versailles. The parallels may not be exact. But if Russians are provoked by nationalist demagogues into believing that their country has been "stabbed in the back," long-term hopes for East-West stability can only suffer.

For the moment, Mr Yeltsin can probably ride out the storm. His remarkable physical recovery gives him an unexpected political initiative. In any case, the Nato setback may soon be overshadowed by a challenge far more immediate to Russian voters: the threat of a nationwide strike on Thursday by millions of workers unpaid for months. The strike could be a catalyst for other pent-up grievances, and violence is likely. The Government is particularly worried about 17 regions where the economic situation is especially bad and where opposition leaders are encouraging the strike.

Mr Yeltsin may try to intervene personally to mitigate the damage his popularity inflicted in Helsinki. He must find a way to break the vicious circle of uncollected taxes and unpaid salaries and pensions. Unless the real grievances of millions of desperate workers can be assuaged, further reform will be thwarted. Too many Russians already associate privatisation with private plunder, capitalism with criminality.

Nato comes well down the list of the Russians' concerns, behind crime, unemployment and ethnic conflict. But the West should not gloat about using this window of opportunity to enlarge Nato while Russia is weak. Russians have long memories, a strong sense of their country's history and dangerous resentments. Mr Clinton may believe he won all he wanted in Helsinki. He must now redouble his efforts to prevent the Russians believing they lost too much.

## CLASS DISTINCTIONS

Two worlds of student life revealed by a new survey

Britain's universities boast undergraduates who are more than a degree apart. A new survey, which we report today, reveals an aristocracy alongside an impoverished rump. While the smart set heads for Latin America for the duration of the long vacation, the poor relations can look forward to a summer spent stacking shelves at the local supermarket. While Katherine has the fast car, personal computer and mobile phone, poor Darren survives on baked beans all term with an adverse effect on his social life. The enormous expansion of higher education has brought not a new egalitarianism but a fresh élitism, based on high technology possession.

This study rings true to those who have experience of modern campus life. There is barely room for the poor professor's ancient Mini Metro in car parks heaving with the Aston Martins owned by those they teach. Students read essays from their laptops. Lectures are constantly interrupted by the annoying chimes of mobile phones. Most students, of course, have none of these trinkets. But this only adds to the brazenness of those who do and who look forward with confidence to a starting salary comfortably in excess of their tutors'.

Was it not ever thus? The pre-war Oxford of *Brideshead Revisited* had far deeper and starker social divisions. Then the young

gentlemen would spend an easy life based around their dining societies, rarely even bothering to sit their final exams. Meanwhile, the grammar school boys would cluster in the libraries, seeking them out as much for warmth as wisdom.

At least today it is not impossible for the average student to improve his or her lot. Companies are increasingly keen to employ them during the vacation, not least as a means of ensuring future recruitment. The slow erosion of the student grant has persuaded most that such work is not beneath them. Most undergraduates seem to survive despite skirmishes with the bank manager.

Other aspects of the survey debunk long-established student myths. Lager, not LSD, remains the preferred external stimulant. Tastes in radio and television look distinctly conventional. And more students choose to read this newspaper than any other.

Whatever expensive gadgets the students may or may not own, a decent degree and well-paid job at the end are common objectives. Some still reflect wistfully on the revolutionary spirit of the 1960s, but demonstrations now seem inefficient and low-tech compared with a protest on the Internet. The true icon to the 1990s university generation seems to be Bill Gates, not Che Guevara.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Publication in the public interest

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, Some of the arguments raised by *The Guardian*'s publication of evidence to Sir Gordon Downey (reports, March 21 and 22) were tested in the High Court in a 1994 case. On that occasion the court attached overriding importance to the need to allow electors to debate an issue of public interest before rather than after an election.

Liverpool City Council had lost several million pounds after awarding a cable-laying contract to its own direct services organisation, despite warnings that it was ill-equipped for the task. The council commissioned accountants KPMG Peat Marwick to investigate. *The Liverpool Echo* learnt of the findings of KPMG's draft report, but was prevented from publishing them by an ex parte injunction obtained by the firm, which the paper then challenged.

KPMG argued that it would be damaging to the individuals named in the report, and to its own professional interests, to allow anything other than the final report to be publicly debated. The newspaper pointed out that if the injunction stood the public would be denied the information until after the local elections, then some four weeks away.

Mr Justice Pill lifted the injunction, so that the findings could be the subject of debate before the election. He commented:

There is a substantial sum of money involved, and the City Council elections are imminent. The pace at which the investigation has been conducted is not rapid.

... matters have not proceeded quickly. No good reason has been shown to me why the present stage should not have been reached some time ago. In my judgment the timescale is important in performing the balancing exercise having regard to the *imminence* of the City Council elections.

... in my judgment, the public interest in publication ... outweighs the interests which the Liverpool City Council has in restraining publication. It further outweighs the public and private interests which the plaintiffs have and it outweighs those interests in combination.

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE FRANKEL,  
Director,  
The Campaign for Freedom of  
Information,  
Suite 102, 16 Baldwin Gardens, EC1.  
March 22

### Assisted places

From the Headmistress of The Mount School, York

Sir, Your leader of March 18, "A Girl's Best Chance", is very timely. Girls' public schools have indeed been pioneers in equal opportunities and thinking about the contribution women can make to society. Here, for instance, at The Mount Quaker School in the 1870s, girls were inspired to study astronomy by the radical socialist, Edward Carpenter, and took classes in geology. A debate on Home Rule electrified the school in 1888.

May I also extend the debate on the Assisted Places Scheme to embrace the role of Quaker schools, and others of like mind, which were founded in pursuance of "values" — those intangibles so warmly espoused by political parties.

These schools inculcate not just hard work and high endeavour but service, personal responsibility and initiative, an international outlook and respect for others. They are paying because they could not otherwise exist — there is no state support available; but, thanks to bursaries and assisted places, their pupil body includes those with plenty of this world's goods and those with scarcely any. The loss of assisted places would merely restrict the intake, thus depriving a considerable body of children from experiencing the values of a Quaker school.

In many other areas of life we see bridges being built between the Labour Party and private enterprise: it is sad for those of us in education to see parallel bridges in our sector threatened with removal. It is difficult to un-

### Charismatic services

From Mr Wes Sutton

Sir, While I have great sympathy for the young lady in her lack of friends at Sunday school ("I'm lonely, says Sunday school girl . . .", March 17), I am interested in your reporter's use of the derivative term "happy clappy", giving the impression, as it seems to me, that those with a profound sense of joy and possessing the means of expression are to be pitied.

As the senior pastor of such a "happy and clappy" church I can assure you that those of us who rejoice in the person of Jesus Christ do so not as an escape from reality, but as a means of gaining strength, so that we can be involved in bringing a better and more satisfying way of living even to those who would regard us with pity.

Yours joyfully,  
WES SUTTON  
(Senior Pastor,  
Vineyard Church, Loughton,  
62 Alres Road, Loughton, Essex.  
March 18)

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

### Tories' hopes and Labour's record

From Miss Elizabeth J. Smith

Sir, It was heartening to read Magnus Linklater's considered piece ("How Scots 'Tories' could surprise us", March 20) in the run-up to the election. He has maintained a commendable objectivity in his observations about the political parties in Scotland. It makes a pleasant change from the untrammelled bias from the pens of too many of his colleagues north of the border.

No one doubts that the Scottish Conservatives face a challenge, but neither should there be any doubt that they are in good heart, nor that their message is sinking in.

I for one would be happy to join Mr Linklater's betting friend in predicting that the "Tories in Scotland just might surprise us all".

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH J. SMITH  
(Prospective Conservative  
Parliamentary Candidate for  
Edinburgh South).  
13 Menteith Gardens, Edinburgh 9.  
March 21

From Mr John E. Strafford

Sir, In his article (March 14) Matthew Parry states that "The Tories are heading for defeat". He goes on to argue that in such a case John Major should resist the pressure to resign immediately.

His article, however, is based on the presumption that it will only be the Parliamentary Conservative Party which will elect a new leader. Might I suggest that in the event of a defeat I should resist the pressure to resign in the election.

We know from your report (March 15) that "The Conservative Party is to press ahead with plans to change the rules for choosing its leader that would give party activists a vote for the first time". Any attempt to hold a leadership election on the old basis before the "grassroots" members of the party had decided to what extent they wished to be involved would, I feel sure, create strong and bitter resentment.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN E. STRAFFORD  
(Chairman, Campaign for  
Conservative Party Democracy),  
Perama, Fulmer Road,  
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.  
March 17

From Miss J. V. Morton

Sir, My father had a story of the canvasser in a 1950s general election being told bluntly by the householder: "I'm going to vote for Mr Baldwin. He promises nothing and he keeps his promises."

Yours faithfully,  
JANE MORTON,  
May's House,  
Fritwell, Bicester, Oxfordshire.  
March 21

From Mr Peter Grafton

Sir, The Hale-Bopp comet, like some of its historic predecessors, may presage some unexpected catastrophe. Perhaps Tony Blair should consult his astrologer as to whether he is more likely, come election day, to be hailed or booted!

Yours faithfully,  
PETER GRAFTON,  
57 Padbrook,  
Limpfield, Oxsted, Surrey.  
March 21

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, I write in support of Lord Bethell's letter (March 17) about Berisha. In 1992 I was asked by the Council of Europe to lead a delegation to oversee the elections in Albania. We met Mr Berisha and formed a good opinion of him and we also went all over the country and were satisfied that the elections were both free and fair.

Recently Mr Berisha may have been unwise and unlucky, but he is not a bad man and I do not believe he should be castigated for all the chaos that now exists in Albania.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STOKES,  
4 The Bradburies,  
Stratton Audley,  
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire.  
March 18

### Tensions that built to Albania's crisis

From the Archbishop of Wales and others

Sir, Much recent reporting of the Albanian crisis has suggested that the collapse of the fraudulent pyramid savings schemes is the main cause of resentment against President Sali Berisha. The problems of Albania go much deeper than that.

In 1995 we were members of a delegation to Albania sponsored by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland. During that visit we met church leaders and aid workers to hear their concerns and in a personal meeting with the President we brought them to his attention.

They included reports of human rights abuses, corruption among members of the Democratic Party, arbitrary decision-making by officials for personal gain, the lack of a legislative framework for the equal treatment of all Christians and Muslims, and concerns in advance of the 1996 Albanian elections (which we now know to be justified).

Subsequently, we have been concerned by reports of Albanians being harassed and beaten up by members of the Shik (the Albanian secret police who replaced the former communist Sigurimi), which indicate a growing intolerance by President Berisha of plural political activity in the country. We are anxious, therefore, that the international community support the cause of democratic and constitutional government in Albania and we hope they will back that support with economic aid and inward investment to provide Albanians with real employment prospects and the constitutional freedoms we take for granted.

If not, internal tensions will continue and Albanians will continue to become economic migrants in Greece, Italy and Germany or refugees on rusting hulks in the Adriatic. The danger to the entire Balkan region and the cost to the international community will then be incalculable.

Yours sincerely,  
TALWYN CAMBRENSIS,  
BRYAN OWEN  
(CCBI Balkans Working Group),  
G. R. SPARKES  
(Baptist Union of Great Britain),  
Bishop's House,  
St Asaph, Denbighshire, LL17 0TW.  
March 21

### Doctor off duty

From Mrs Mary Stoney

Sir, You report (March 20) a campaign to discourage patients being in need of their GP over Easter. No one in Stradbrooke dared call Dr Drawer at weekends, and this was over 30 years ago. His successor was very surprised how peaceful it had been on his first duty Bank Holiday in the village.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY STONES,  
The Cottage Farm,  
Stradbrooke, nr Eye, Suffolk.  
March 20

### You've been warned

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, My local newspaper warns me that the Council for the Protection of Rural England is recommending that all those people who love the countryside should get out and enjoy its peace and tranquillity. To that end it is naming June 7 and 8 a National Picnic Weekend.

As my house is surrounded by fields and grassland in this remote part of the Hampshire/Wiltshire border, I fear June 9 cannot come soon enough.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT,  
Dilly House, Wildern,  
Andover, Hampshire.  
March 20

### Home and away

From Mr Richard



## OBITUARIES

## SIR JOHN FIGGESS

**Sir John Figgess, KBE, CMG, Commissioner General for Britain, World Exposition, Osaka, 1968-70, and a director of Christie, Manson and Woods, 1975-82, died on March 20 aged 87. He was born on November 15, 1909.**

**A** leading British authority on Japan, John Figgess and his work were involved with that country for nearly seventy years. He did secret work in Japan at the time of its invasion of China and during the build-up to the Second World War. He was involved with military intelligence in India and the postwar interrogations of Japanese war criminals. He had diplomatic service in Tokyo, culminating as Britain's alternate "ambassador" as UK Commissioner General at the 1970 Osaka World Exposition.

Finally, he had another career as an art expert, spearheading Christie's generation of the rich Japanese market. This owed much not only to his art expertise, but to his flawless Japanese.

Through all his contacts in Japan — government, business and members of the Imperial House — Figgess could claim his part in helping Japan to re-emerge as a peaceful ally. Never an apologist for Japan, he had a keen insight into what for many is still the baffling national character.

**J**ohn George Figgess was born into a family of Ulster Protestants from Enniskillen. His father, an army officer, was killed in the First World War, and his mother struggled to send him to Whitgift Middle School, Croydon.

Not being able to afford university fees, Figgess, wanting to learn Chinese, was recruited by British Intelligence and sent instead in 1933 to learn Japanese with a Tokyo family. His cover was "business". It was a turbulent time. Japan was annexing Manchuria and defying international bodies. Although Figgess, with his great height and strong nose, was to Japanese eyes the archetypal "Western devil", he was well placed to observe and warn about the threat of Japanese expansionism.

The imminence of war in Europe

brought him home. He was commissioned in the Army Intelligence Corps, and attended staff college. After Pearl Harbor and Japan's occupation of most of South-East Asia, he was posted to thwart the Japanese threat to India. Based at Indian Army HQ at Delhi and then with Mountbatten's SE Asia Command, his unit deciphered intercepts of Japanese communications.

Figgess was particularly engrossed with the Victory for India Movement, whose leader Subhas Chandra Bose commanded the equivalent of two divisions in Burma on Japan's side. Although Bose's forces rarely got into action against the British, Figgess reported that his supporters believed he would return from Japan as a liberator. Instead he died in a Japanese air crash in Formosa, but the affair typically gave Figgess an earlier appreciation than most that the Raj could not continue after the war.

After 1945 he continued his Army intelligence career. He served for a year in the UK Liaison Mission to the American supreme, General Douglas MacArthur, whose task was both to occupy and to democratise the defeated enemy. Figgess had specific tasks such as interrogating Japanese commanders prior to their trial by the International Military Tribunal. But his greater purpose, as assistant military attaché until 1953, was to further Britain's interest, alongside the Americans, with the generation of men and women who were to rehabilitate Japan. Japan's first post-war Prime Minister, Shigeru Yoshida, and his family were and remained prominent among Figgess's friends.

Although he later came to question the need for the atomic bombing of Japan, Figgess believed the American occupation succeeded as one of the most benevolent and enlightened transformations of any society. But, as close observer of Chairman Mao's rise to power and the outbreak of war in Korea in 1950, he was less enchanted by MacArthur's actions, and the development of American policies. Amid loose talk of using atomic weapons to stem Communist advances, Figgess helped the Attlee



Government to exercise restraint on Washington.

After Korea, as a staff officer at the War Office's MI Directorate, Figgess was mainly preoccupied with the French collapse in Indo-China, and the subsequent partition of Vietnam. But in 1956, promoted to full colonel, he was posted back to Japan as military attaché, a job in which he witnessed the birth of Japan's new Self Defence Forces, before in 1961 transferring, under Foreign Office aegis, to become information counsellor at the British Embassy.

For the next nine years, Figgess was the interpreter to Tory and Labour movements alike of the emergent

Japan. From 1968 to 1970 he was Britain's effective ambassador at the Osaka World Exposition. Such was his entertaining that the funds ran out. But with brilliant unorthodox he saw the solution in the 60 million Japanese visitors; he had his staff risk their careers set up schemes to sell a specially struck British medallion, as well as ice-cream. With the huge funds generated, the entertainment could be financed, and the aghast Treasury in London told only afterwards. It did not affect his well deserved appointment as KBE in 1969.

Amid the wreckage of Tokyo in 1946 Figgess met his future wife

Alette Idenburg, who had just left the liberated Dutch East Indies. They married in The Hague in 1948.

It was with her, in small-scale collecting at Tokyo junk shops, that Figgess developed the taste in oriental art that was to blossom in his later years. He became a self-taught scholar, particularly of early Chinese lacquers that have survived (if not in China) so significantly in Japan since 1600. He delighted in ceramics, too. In 1960 he co-authored with Fujio Koyama *Ten Thousand Years of Oriental Ceramics* and in 1973 *The Heritage of Japanese Ceramics*. Although he also contributed to specialist journals it is the one regret of his friends that he was too busy with living to write his memoirs.

In 1972 he entered the world of international art dealing with Christie's. The firm had recruited him for his extraordinary Japanese contacts but Figgess also brought to the work his enthusiasm for the hunt for sales. In one of his more extraordinary scoops, he was at one of Britain's grander country homes inspecting what the owners thought was safe. Figgess, not particularly impressed with what he was shown, visited the bathroom and came across a piece that seemed to be used as an umbrella stand. He came down barely able to contain his excitement: it was, he announced to the startled owners, a very rare 14th-century cold-glazed copper red piece of early Chinese porcelain. At Christie's it went for a record price of 100,000 guineas.

Figgess was respected in a wide circle of curators and collectors, in London and the Far East, and was actively engaged right up to his death. But he was particularly distinguished as a member of the expert advisory council to the Percival David Foundation of Chinese Art, attached to London University. And he was serving as president of the Oriental Ceramics Society when in 1990 he masterminded the *Porcelain for Palaces* exhibition at the British Museum — typically he had been invaluable in securing sponsorship by the Fujitsu company.

He is survived by his wife Alette, and two daughters.

## WILLIAM HILTON

standard reference work on the subject.

From 1950 onwards, his work was on rockets and guided weapons. Joining Armstrong Whitworth, he was the chief aerodynamicist on the Sea Slug ship-to-air missile project — the Navy's first — for which he built a variable wind density tunnel.

In 1959 he was appointed head of aerodynamics at Hawker Siddeley Aviation. 1959-62, died on March 6 aged 84. He was born on June 10, 1912.

A PIONEER among British aerospace engineers, Bill Hilton was the first to use the term "the sound barrier" when explaining his work on supersonic aerodynamics to a journalist in the aerodynamically speaking far-off times of the 1950s. This was the time when the biplane still ruled supreme in RAF operational squadrons and Mach 1 was a concept smacking more of the novels of H.G. Wells than of anything likely to be achieved by a flesh-and-blood aviator. Hilton was in the forefront of ramjet and rocket development from the war years until the early 1960s when Britain voluntarily (and needlessly) gave up its commanding position in the field of space technology.

Thereafter, his work was concentrated on the design of satellites to which he made contributions which are still acknowledged today.

A Londoner born and bred, William Frank Hilton went from Finchley County School to the Royal College of Science where he read physics, and then to Imperial College, where, in 1935, he gained his PhD with a thesis on *Photography of Airscrew Shock Waves*.

In 1935 he joined the National Physical Laboratory where he took charge of the 12-inch square high-speed wind tunnel. By 1942 he was running it at supersonic speeds to test guided rockets, aircraft and ramjets. In 1943, using a 20-inch by 8-inch flexible-walled, high-speed wind tunnel he had designed and built himself at NPL, he studied wing interference at supersonic speeds and in the following year investigated the aerodynamics of wind tunnel models of the Miles E24/43 supersonic aircraft.

An Air Ministry project, to be handled by Miles Aircraft, the E24/43 was the first manned supersonic aircraft project in this country and became known as the Miles M2 Supersonic Aircraft. This was advanced work at a time when the fastest British military aircraft in squadron service were still piston engined and were capable of little more than 400 mph.

In the event, though no complete aircraft was ever built, Miles constructed a full-scale mock-up of the fuselage. A flying model was also built, a rocket-powered example being air-launched from a de Havilland Mosquito. But the Government subsequently decided that Britain would not build a manned supersonic aircraft, and terminated the M2 project. It was only after the Americans had broken the sound barrier through Chuck Yeager and the air-launched, rocket-powered Bell X-1 that the British supersonic aircraft programme was pursued afresh.

Other wartime work Hilton did at the National Physical Laboratory involved the development of the "bouncing bomb" used by the Dambusters' squadron against the Ruhr dams. He also advised on the Mulberry Harbour, the great artificial ports which were constructed from old ships, steel girders and masses of concrete, to receive the Allied invasion forces and supplies into the Normandy beachhead after D-Day.

After the war Hilton's advanced research on ramjets led to his appointment in 1946 to Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. At the university's applied physics laboratory he was responsible for wind tunnel work on the Bumble Bee ramjet project. In 1954 he published *High Speed Aerodynamics*, which became a



squandered a huge investment. Hawker Siddeley, recognising the Government's lack of interest in its space projects, closed down its aerodynamics section in 1962. Hilton and his valuable team of specialists were made redundant.

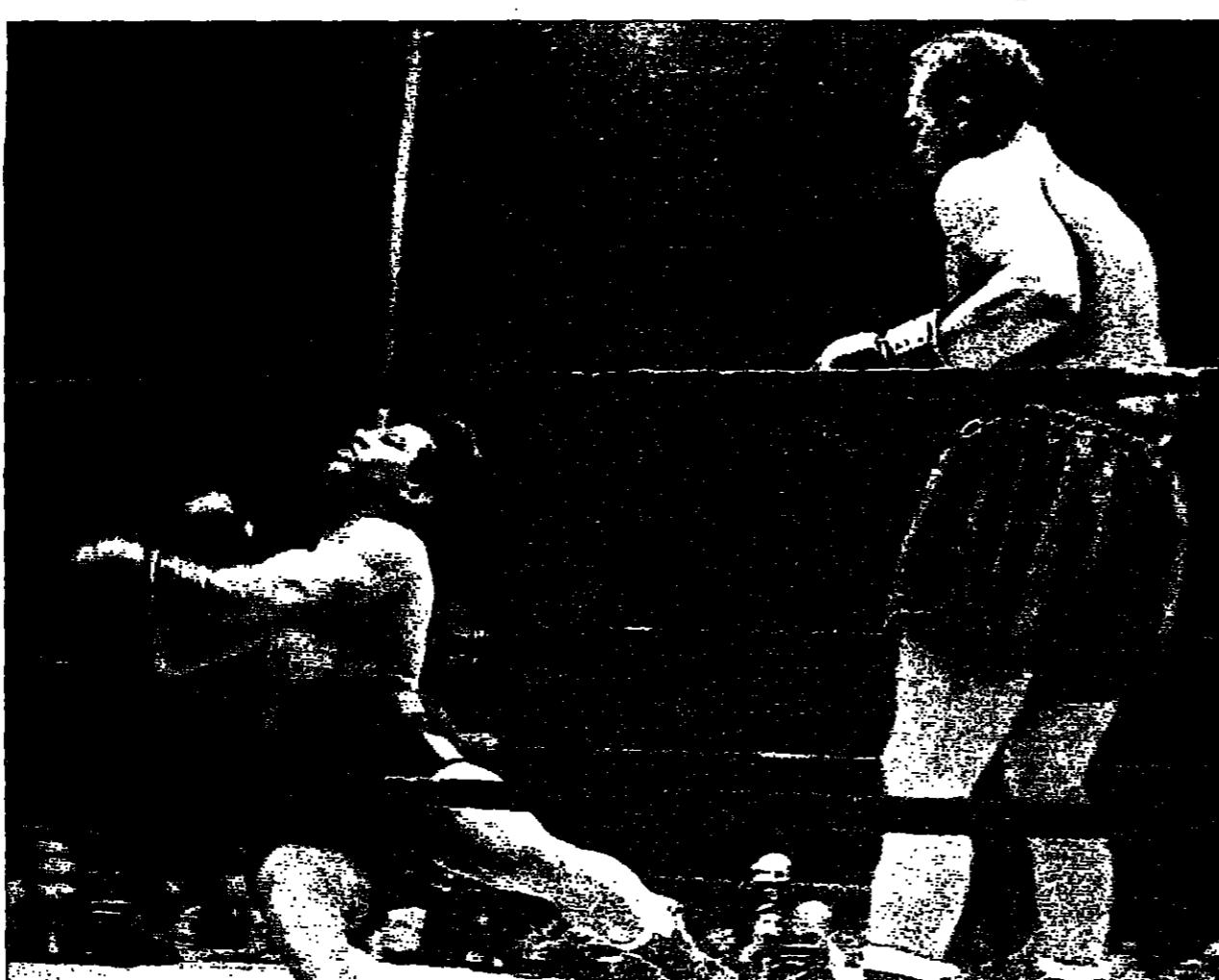
In 1963 Hilton became secretary of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and helped to found the Academy of Astronautics. In 1967 he served as assistant to the technical director of the British Aircraft Corporation. As such, he went to the United States as senior British representative on the team at Hughes Aircraft which designed the Intelsat 4 communications satellite.

One of his interests was the search for the existence of other life forms in the cosmos and he was associated with the IAF study group connected with this. He attended every meeting of the group, in whatever part of the world they were held, and only last year gave a paper at its congress in Beijing.

Hilton will be remembered as an inspirational leader in his field. The aerodynamic configurations of the re-entry vehicles he proposed in 1960 are very similar to those in use today. He continued to produce studies on space flight.

Bill Hilton enjoyed a wide range of hobbies ranging from ice-skating, ballroom dancing and skiing to playing the ukulele and collecting stamps. He is survived by his wife Joan, and by a son and two daughters.

## TONY ZALE



Down and out: Rocky Graziano heads for the canvas in the final moments of his third and last title fight with Zale

against Graziano he won the first and the last. It was only after that — by then in his 35th year — that he finally surrendered his world title to the up-and-coming French-Algerian Marcel Cerdan.

He was born Anton Florian Zaleski, of Polish immigrant stock, in the steel town of Gary, Indiana, where he began his working life in a rolling mill. It was this background, combined with his awesome ability to soak up punishment as well as dish it

out, that earned for him his sobriquet "Man of Steel" when he took up boxing.

As a boy he fought as an amateur, winning the Golden Gloves lightweight championship of his native state in 1931. Turning professional in 1934 he embarked on what was in those days the very hard road that had to be travelled before a boxer put himself into a position as a contender for championship honours. In his first year as a pro he fought an amazing 21 contests, losing

five but establishing a reputation for being a fighter who "when he hits him, he stays hit".

The pay for such an apprenticeship was derisory and for one entire year, 1936, he had to return to the steelmill in Gary, Indiana, to earn a realistic living. But he was back in the ring the following year, punching all contenders out of the way, and early in 1940 he was matched with the National Boxing Association middleweight champion. Al

Hostak. Winning on points in ten rounds, he was rematched with Hostak later in the year, this time in a title fight. He knocked out Hostak in 13 rounds, but full recognition for the undisputed world title had to wait until the following year when he beat the New York State Athletic Commission's champion, George Abrams.

Soon after that, he joined the US Navy and it was an even more daunting boxing ethos he returned to when he finally

THE OVERLAND MAIL  
DEFEAT OF THE SIKHS

BY EXTRAORDINARY EXPRESS

We delayed publication to the latest possible hour at the despatch of last steamer, in expectation of receiving full and authentic tidings of a reverse said to have occurred near Ludianah, but obtained none. Sir Harry Smith's division proceeded according to orders about the 19th, to march in the direction of Ludianah to reinforce the division under Colonel Gobly, considered too weak to be opposed to the formidable body of Sikhs then entrenched in the neighbourhood.

The force in all amounted to nearly 8,000 men. On the 20th an express arrived, intimating that the Ludianah regiments were hemmed in ... The greater portion of the troops were encamped between Budewal and Ludianah — the 36th Native Infantry and Nusseer battalions being alone near the town. The Sikhs now approaching an attack, in turn abandoned Budewal, and withdrew to a more advantageous position. Colonel Wheeler's brigade joined on the 25th, and a few days later, being allowed for rest and arrangements, it was resolved that an attack by the united force should be made on the 28th.

## ON THIS DAY

March 24, 1846

The first Sikh War (1845-46) ended with a victory at Lahore on March 24. The action described here took place in February. The second war (1848-49) saw the defeat of the Sikhs and the annexation of the Punjab.

The Sikh force had originally consisted of 20,000 men with 56 guns; on the 20th they were reinforced by the addition of 12 guns and 4,000 men — all regular well-disciplined troops. The strength of their position was the village of Ullewal.

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stormed by our troops. The whole line now pressed on and stormed the batteries everywhere, carrying the guns at the bayonet's point.

Charge after charge of our Cavalry broke and cut up the enemy as they endeavoured to rally. The 16th Lancasters and 3d Cavalry suffered most severely; of the former 110 were killed or wounded in charging the enemy's guns and in surviving, and their retreat successfully, to break a square of a Khalsa regiment, which was quickly dispersed or cut to pieces. In this latter service 200 of the Irregular Horse, under Captain Hill, and 700 of the Sikkawatte Brigade, eminently disengaged themselves.

The Sikhs fought gallantly, and their guns were excellently served; they opened at 10, and were not silenced till 1 o'clock — many of the artillerymen remaining till bayonetted at their posts. By noon the enemy were broken; they were driven by repeated charges of cavalry and infantry into, and across, the river. Many were drowned in attempting to escape.

Nothing could exceed the gallantry of the troops: the artillery was precise, steady, and destructive; the cavalry charges brilliant; and the infantry as determined, steady, and orderly, as a ball-practice parade, and not a pitched battle, had been in hand ...

## Church news

Recent appointments include:

The Rev Garth Barber, priest-in-charge, All Hallows, Twickenham and Chiswick, Richmond upon Thames (London), to be Chaplain to the University of East Anglia (Norwich).

The Rev Timothy Coleman, curate-in-charge, St Peter and St Paul, Hastings, and St John the Evangelist, Hollington (Chichester), to be Vicar, St Peter, Aldborough Hatch (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Court, curate, Kinson (Salisbury), to be Priest-in-charge, Mile Cross (Norwich).

The Rev Peter Edwards, Vicar, Christ the King, Salfords, to be Rector, St Mary, Newington (Southwark).

The Rev Alan Finch, CA, diocesan community and race relations adviser and curate, Holy Trinity, Longlevens (Gloucester), to be Vicar, All Saints' and St Thomas' (Gloucester).

The Rev Simon Foster, curate, Consort, to be Priest-in-charge, St Hilda and St Columba, Darlington (Durham).

The Rev Roy McCullough, Vicar, St Matthew with Holy Trinity, Bury St Edmunds, and Chichester, Chichester (West Sussex), to be Vicar, Waldegrave, Isle of Wight, and Saline-Hurst, to be Canon of Bury St Edmunds.

The Rev Charles Hall, Vicar, Stapleford, and Rector, St Edmund (Southwark), to be Canon of Bury St Edmunds.

The Rev Duncan Harris, recently with Missions to Seamen, Cyprus, to be Port Chaplain, Missions to Seamen, Hull (York).

The Rev David Hart, Chaplain, Loughborough University, to be Chaplain, Whitelands College (Southwark).

The Rev Paul Rayner, Rector, St Andrew with St Peter, South Shepshed, to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Loughborough (Leicestershire).

The Rev Adrian Robbins-Cole, curate, St Stephen South Dulwich, to be Vicar, Holy Cross, Muswell Hill (Harrow).

The Rev Nigel Sather, Vicar, Higher Millfield Team Ministry (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), to be Assistant Priest, St Stephen and St Wolstan, Selly Park (Birmingham).

The Rev Jonathan Lawson, curate, Usworth Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar, Usworth Team Ministry (Southwark).

The Rev Clive French, Chaplain, and Director of Ordinands, Royal Navy.

The Rev Mark Tanner, Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Southwell, to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Southwell, and discontinuous as part-time Research Officer to the Bishop of Southwell.

The Rev Ralph Watts, Chaplain, Wadham College, Oxford, and curate, Gisford St Mary, the Vicar, St Helen, St James (Liverpool).

The Rev Christopher Pearson, curate, St Peter, St Swithun, Park (Southwark).

The Rev David Hart, Chaplain, Loughborough University, to be Chaplain, Whitelands College (Southwark).

The Rev Nigel Sather, Vicar, Higher Millfield Team Ministry (St Edmundsbury & Ipswich), to be Assistant Priest, St Stephen and St Wolstan, Selly Park (Birmingham).

The Rev Nigel Stone, Vicar, St Paul, Usworth Team Ministry, to be Team Vicar, Usworth Team Ministry (Southwark).

The Rev Norman Swanson,

## NEWS

## Army code to end gays ban

■ Army officers are drawing up a new code of moral conduct which would effectively remove the ban on homosexuals and change the current strict attitude towards adultery.

Senior Army officers rewriting the discipline and standards guidelines which were last updated in 1993, believe it is no longer justified to treat individuals differently on the basis of their sexuality. Page 1

## France welcomes lone sailor hero

■ France took Pete Goss to its heart when the British yachtsman finished his epic solo round-the-world voyage and was welcomed by more than a hundred thousand people in glorious spring weather. He was greeted by Raphael Dinelli, the French sailor whose life he saved in the Southern Ocean after his boat capsized.

Page 1

## Tension rises

Middle East tension increased as Hamas threatened more suicide attacks against Israeli targets and violence continued in various parts of the occupied West Bank. Pages 1, 10

## Business woed

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown stepped up Labour's efforts to woo business by promising a seat for the CBI on a committee to prepare for Britain's presidency of the EU in 1998. Page 1

## Go back to jail

More than half of all prisoners released from jail are reconvicted within two years. The Home Office says. Page 2

## Stowaway dies

The body of a boy was found in the wheel bay of a British Airways jumbo jet after it landed at Gatwick. Ground crew discovered the boy, aged between eight and 12, in an aircraft from Nairobi. Page 3

## Payments to MPs

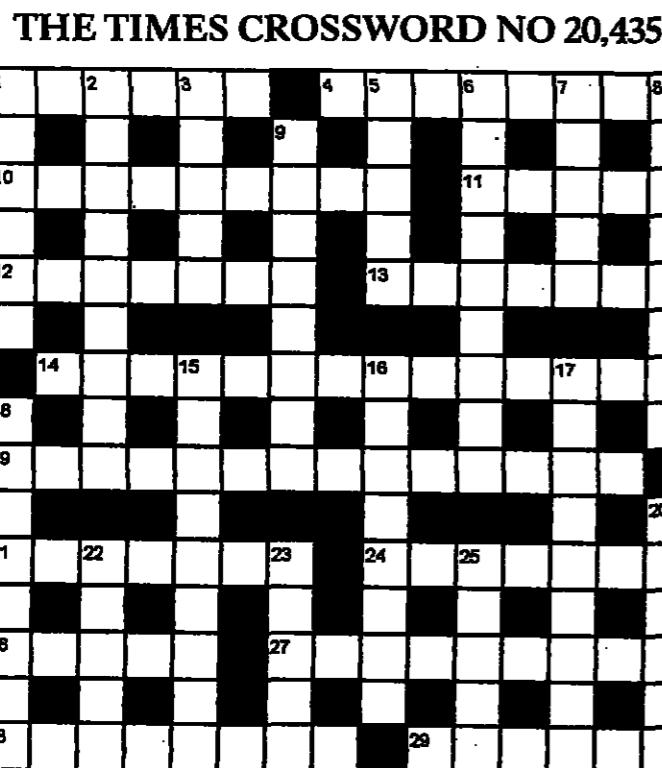
Mohamed Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods, lost track of payments he made to MPs but claims Neil Hamilton accepted between £40,000 and £60,000. Page 4

## Whale of a job

Thousands of sightseers lined both banks of the river Forth to watch a flotilla of boats attempt to shepherd a 40ft sperm whale to safety. Page 5

## A tale of Rachel, Emma and Oscar

■ Cinema history has been made by an unheard-of woman whose work has probably been heard by millions. Rachel Portman is the first female composer to be nominated for an Oscar. One of 31 Britons nominated for an Oscar — the awards ceremony for which is tonight — she was singled out for the music she wrote for *Emma*. Page 3



ACROSS  
 1 University man unknown on the river (6).  
 4 Female long on cheek might well be this (8).  
 10 Display good horsemanship escorting leader of brigands into jail (9).  
 11 Always carrying books to make records (5).  
 12 Reportedly masters something that's child's play (7).  
 13 Part of church where Liberal appears fortuitously? (7).  
 14 Become active and move own cricket gear (4,4,6).  
 19 In response to reference marks, stressed and up in arms (2,7,5).  
 21 Pitch where snake appears to proceed hesitatingly (7).  
 24 Hard rubber in erasers originally to be recycled (7).  
 26 Worker firm producing section of poem (5).

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,434 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

27 Animal in a Parisian outhouse, safe and sound (9).  
 28 Line of verse about a line in mathematics (8).  
 29 Gorge from food container over there (6).  
 DOWN  
 1 Battle, possibly, for such high ecclesiastical office (6).  
 2 Estranged woman sheltered by girl and boy (9).  
 3 Mostly comply with directions associated with large corporation (5).  
 5 Shiraz's flower cut across (5).  
 6 E.g. McGonagall dipping into *The Raven*? (9).  
 7 Greek screen with ends trimmed (5).  
 8 Vigorous description of an American boneshaker? (8).  
 9 Characters assumed to take exercise with strange reason (8).  
 15 Deciphered a grim character's rambling tale (9).  
 16 Woman Sir Patrick kept in a state of uncertainty (8).  
 17 Milky wash splashed around in drippy fashion (9).  
 18 Just so books ought to be (8).  
 20 Sinew displayed by heavyweight securing goal (6).  
 22 Creature with father's letters (5).  
 23 Conservative involved in genuine ceasefire (5).  
 25 Mid-West city invaded by Americans one summer (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

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